

SAC, Miami

June 16, 1954

Director, FBI

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurlet dated June 8, 1954, captioned "White Circle League of America, Internal Security - X," wherein you advised that according to [redacted] M. B. Sherrill, Ft. Pierce, Florida, was forming an organization to be known as the Pro-Southerners which would be similar to the White Circle League of America.

You are instructed to promptly advise the Bureau and other interested offices of any future activity by the Pro-Southerners and in the event this organization becomes active you should immediately initiate an investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 87D of the Manual of Instructions.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-21-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

RET:amc

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
JUN 16 1954  
MAILED 28

RECORDED - 71  
INDEXED - 71

SE-33

EX-123

JUN 17 1954  
115 21

55 JUL 2 1954

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b7D

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: June 29, 1954

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-677)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-21-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

SUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ReBulet to Miami dated 6/16/54.

Referenced letter instructed the Miami Office to institute an investigation of the above captioned organization in the event that it becomes active within the Miami territory.

Immediately upon receipt that this organization was replacing the White Circle League of America in the Florida area the Miami Office opened an investigation concerning the activities of this organization. This file was opened on 5/18/54 and is presently in a Pending status. A report has not yet been submitted as only recently information has been secured which would warrant the submission of a report.

On 5/17/54 [redacted], of known reliability, advised that on 5/15/54 he contacted M. B. SHERRILL, Fort Pierce, Florida, in regard to literature SHERRILL had distributed over the name The White Circle League of America. Informant had been in correspondence with SHERRILL and had received literature from him relating to The White Circle League of America. Informant said that on his personal contact with SHERRILL, SHERRILL indicated that he was unable to get along with the Northern officials of The White Circle League and, therefore, had broken relations with them and was forming an organization to be known as the Pro-Southerners. The informant stated that SHERRILL indicated that this organization would be similar in principals and objectives as that of the White Circle League and that he felt it would be more successful in the south inasmuch as it would be an all Southern organization rather than an organization with headquarters in the north. SHERRILL gave the informant some mimeographed literature on this organization and also a membership card which reads as follows:

"MEMBERSHIP CARD"

"THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS"

"The White Man's Organization of the Southland  
to Preserve Our Southern Segregated Way of Life"

REGISTERED MAIL

MMJ:SSB

CC: 2 - Atlanta RM  
277 - Memphis RM

RECORDED - 150

INDEXED - 150

8 JUL 1 1954

EX-12

INT. SEC. can

Letter to Director, FBI

June 29, 1954

"Name . . . . .

"Address . . . . .

" M. B. SHERRELL, Sec.-Mgr.

"M. B. SHERRELL, Sec.-Mgr. P.O. Box 1071 Ft. Pierce, Fla."

Among the mimeographed material was one sheet captioned The Pro-Southerners--What They Stand For. This sheet stated that the Pro-Southerners believe that only Southern organizations, led by Southerners could solve the racial problem of the south and that the Democratic Party should defend the south on its racial problems. The circular stated that failing to do so a new political party should be formed. He stated that the Southern Democrats are leaning too far toward creeping Communism and heeding the racial minorities. The circular further stated that The Pro-Southerners were against all forms of Marxism, were for the repeal of the 16th Amendment, condemn Northerners from interfering with racial questions in the south, and called for the outlawing of the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League in all Southern states. The circular stated the Pro-Southerners wanted the same right to organize and protest, petition and lobby, as it is granted to the Negro NAACP and Anti-Defamation League and to be free of Congressional investigations and not to be classified as subversive because they wanted to protect the white man's right.

The circular called for the white people of the south to join now and organize local groups, take part in politics and to protest loudly against interference in the south's racial problems.

The informant stated that SHERRELL gave him other mimeographed material, one of which was short paragraphs of quotes from various persons throughout the United States, all relating to racial problems. Also among this literature was a mimeographed letter addressed to Dear Fellow Southerners which further urged the organizing of the whites against the Negro and also tirade against the FEPC.

This informant has maintained correspondence with SHERRELL receiving an average of approximately one letter per week. All of

Letter to Director, FBI

June 29, 1954

which are personal tirades on the part of SHERRILL against the Negro and encouraging the informant to form a chapter of the Pro-Southerners in the Miami area.

On 6/21/54 [redacted], in response to a request made by him to SHERRILL for information concerning the White Circle League received a personal letter from SHERRILL on the stationery of the Pro Southerners. This letterhead carries the following printed information:

"A Chartered Unit of the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc.

Advisory Board:

"Harry Wm. Pyle, Board Chairman

M. B. Sherrill,

The following persons are listed:

"Harry Wm. Pyle, Tenn.  
Robt. Patterson, Miss.  
Alton Thatcher, Mo.  
Bob Currie, Nevada  
J. H. Fickley, S. C.  
E. G. Skaggs, M.D., Ky.  
Fletcher Nelson, Ia.  
H. M. Sherrill, Ala.  
L. F. Havlin, Okla.  
W. J. Griffin, Fla.

Charles Fitzgerald, Texas  
F. C. Sammons, W. Va.  
Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, Ga.  
Mrs. M. Conan, Ariz.  
John H. Monk, Va.  
Hubert H. Heath, N. Mex.  
Geo. C. Bickley, Md.  
R. E. Griffith, Okla.  
P. C. Wyatt, N.C.  
L. W. Lewis, Ark. "

The informant advised that this letter welcomed him as a member of the Pro-Southerners and included membership cards for both he and his wife. The letter SHERRILL wrote to [redacted] also urged him to solicit membership in this organization and included a set of sample literature similar to that previously received by [redacted]. Part of the personal letter written by SHERRILL to [redacted] is quoted herewith:

"Tell them the time is short and we must win this time to prevent revolution and bloodshed later--we are not going to take the decision of 9 appointed Communists--appointed by the traitor President to give this white country to Jews and Niggers."

This letter was apparently in the handwriting of SHERRILL and signed M. B. SHERRILL, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida

Letter to Director, FBI

June 29, 1954

By letter dated 5/27/54 [redacted] asked SHERRILL if the Pro-Southerners had been chartered.

By letter dated 6/10/54 received by informant, SHERRILL advised that he had received the amended and new charter on the previous Saturday night and that now "we" have a political action organization.

In response to this informant wrote SHERRILL on 6/11/54 congratulating him on receiving the charter and asked that a copy be forwarded to him to be used to organize a unit in the Miami area.

On 6/18/54 the informant received a letter from SHERRILL stating that under no circumstances could a copy of the charter be made available at the present time.

By letter dated 6/18/54 and received by [redacted] on 6/21/54 Mr. HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Editor of the Political Report, at 3601 So. Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tennessee, advised [redacted] that SHERRILL had informed him that the informant had expressed some doubt as to whether or not a charter had been issued to the Pro-Southerners from the Patrick Henry Organization. PYLE stated that it was unfortunate but that the Patrick Henry Organization had no charters printed and no charter forms so a special typed copy was made up and signed by Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Secretary, and by himself as President (Acting) as "we have not a President" and "I as Vice-President am acting until we meet on the 10th of July, when officers will be elected to serve." This letter stated that this charter that was issued to Mr. SHERRILL and the Pro-Southerners gives him full authority to act as a special unit of this organization and it covers the whole nation as his to organize in. The letter stated that "we did this for we had the highest respect for Mr. SHERRILL and for his ability to organize and above all else his loyalty and willingness to cooperate with real patriots."

The letter stated that he could assure the informant that Mr. SHERRILL and all those who join in with the Patrick Henry Organization will get the closest cooperation from not only the officers but it will be the understanding that those who take our places will respect this charter to the limit.

Letter to Director, FBI

June 29, 1954

The letter further stated that at the meeting in July they may vote to put a general organizer in the field. The letter concluded by saying "Let us hope that this information will help you in convincing those you contact and that we have your closest cooperation, both to the Pro-Southerners and the Patrick Henry." This letter was signed HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Editor, V. President, PHO.

From the above information it is evident that the Pro-Southerners is a chartered unit of the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc. The Miami Office does not at the present time have information as to where the Patrick Henry Organization was incorporated. The information available indicates that WILLIAM HENRY PYLE, Memphis, Tennessee, is the Acting Vice-President in the absence of a President. It is also known by the Miami Office that Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, of Columbus, Georgia, is the Secretary of this organization.

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b7D

[redacted], who is presently affiliated with the Southern Knights of the KKK has been invited to attend the meeting of 7/10/54. However, BILL HENDRIX, the Imperial Emperor of the Southern Knights of the KKK has advised the informant not to attend this meeting. For this reason the Miami Office will not have coverage of the activities of that meeting but will attempt to develop through informant sources what transpired on 7/10/54 at Columbus, Georgia.

Will attend  
7/10/54  
meeting  
Columbus  
Ga.  
[initials]

Inasmuch as the Pro-Southerners is a chartered unit of the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc. the Bureau is requested to designate an office of origin for this investigation.

The Memphis and Atlanta Offices are requested to determine if the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., is a state corporation either in Tennessee or in Georgia and to make this information available immediately to the Bureau in order that a proper office or origin can be designated.

The Miami Office will hold in abeyance the summation of a report until receipt of instructions from the Bureau as to how this investigation should be handled. At the present time the Miami Office has no information indicating that there are any active units of the Pro-Southerners as such.

87D

~~Letter to~~ Director, FBI

June 29, 1954

It is believed the only membership to this organization are "membership at large" which is a classification of membership issued to both [ ] and [ ]. The activities of the Pro-Southerners in the Miami area will be closely followed by the Miami Office.

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SAC, Miami (105-672)

July 13, 1954

Director, FBI (105-28645)

RECORDED-117 EX-115  
PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sch

b2  
b7D

Re Miami letter dated June 29, 1954, with  
copies to Atlanta and Memphis.

Relet requested the Bureau to designate an  
office of origin for the investigation of the captioned  
organization. It is noted in relet that the Pro-  
Southerners may be a part of the Patrick Henry Organi-  
zation which is headed by Mrs. Jessie Jenkins of  
Columbus, Georgia. It is also noted that Mrs. Jenkins  
is sponsoring a meeting of a group of organizations on  
July 10, 1954, which organizations have the same views  
with regard to segregation. This meeting will be  
attended by [redacted].

It is believed that prior to designating an  
office of origin in this case, the results of the  
meeting of July 10, 1954, in Columbus, Georgia, should  
first be obtained and reported to the Bureau. Upon  
receipt of this information, it will then be possible  
to determine which office will be office of origin in  
the captioned matter. The investigation of the  
captioned matter should, of course, be conducted in  
accordance with Section 87-D of the Manual of  
Instructions.

The Miami Office is requested to promptly  
advise the Bureau of [redacted] observations of the  
July 10, 1954, meeting in Columbus, Georgia.

2cc - Atlanta

2cc - Memphis

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

RET:pjm

COMM - FBI

JUL 15 1954

MAILED 27

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI  
RECEIVED



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI ATLANTA 7/20/54

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DIRECTOR (105-28645) A I R T E L

PRO-SOUTHERNERS, IS-X. REBULET DATED 7/13/54 TO MIAMI.   PSI,

ATLANTA, GA., ATTENDED MEETING NATIONAL PATRICK HENRY ORGANIZATION 7/10/54, COLUMBUS, GA. TOTAL OF 11 PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE. MEETING WAS FOR PURPOSE OF REORGANIZATION OF NPHO AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM WHITE CAMELLIAS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF WHITE PEOPLE AND KU KLUX KLAN ATTENDED. THREE POINTS EMPHASIZED, I.E., UPHOLDING U. S. CONSTITUTION, FIGHTING CP ACTIVITY AND LEGAL ACTION AGAINST BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO RETAIN SEGREGATION. PSI OF OPINION MRS. JESSIE JENKINS AND NPHO BEING USED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ABOVE. THERE IS NO INDICATION NPHO WOULD MERGE WITH OTHER GROUPS, ACCORDING TO PSI. MRS. JESSIE JENKINS, FOUNDER AND HEAD OF NPHO, DESCRIBED BY PSI AS AN ECCENTRIC OLD LADY WHO IS NOT CAPABLE OF HEADING A LARGE ORGANIZATION. PSI REPORTS ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS ARE APPARENTLY AFTER MRS. JENKINS' MONEY. THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS ORGANIZATION, ACCORDING TO ABOVE PSI, IS NOT ACTIVE ANYWHERE IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA. ATLANTA FILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION INDICATING PRO-SOUTHERNERS AS AN ORGANIZATION IS ACTIVE WITH HEADQUARTERS IN COLUMBUS OR ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE ABOVE MEETING WILL BE SUBMITTED ON RECEIPT OF ABOVE PSI'S WRITTEN REPORT.

HAWKINS

END

GDM:sha  
105-81 Mr. Belmont

- 1 - MIAMI (105-677)
- 1 - MEMPHIS
- 1 - BIRMINGHAM

51 JUL 28 1954

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED-124  
EX-128

105-28645-3

1054

*[Handwritten signature]*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-28645)

REGISTERED

DATE: 8/4/54

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (105-81)

SUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS

IS-X Atlanta

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

Re (Miami) airtel July 20, 1954.

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b7E

It will be noted that Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, of Columbus, Georgia, has been mentioned in connection with numerous organizations including those referred to in referenced airtel. [ ] has advised that he is well acquainted with Mrs. JENKINS and that she has invited him to Columbus, Georgia on several occasions. Informant states that he is of the opinion that he can determine the scope of activity in the Columbus, Georgia area of organizations in which Mrs. JENKINS is interested by talking to her and other acquaintances in Columbus, Ga. Informant is willing to travel to Columbus, Ga. for this purpose provided the Bureau will allow him the sum of [ ] to cover expenses. Informant believes he can obtain the desired information in one or two days.

I therefore recommend that the Bureau grant authority to pay this informant [ ] in order that he may make this trip to Columbus, Ga. This, of course, is in addition to the money presently being paid to him at the rate of [ ] per week.

HEK:sj

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED - 36

INDEXED - 7

EX-130

Lt Atlanta  
8-11-54  
RET

105-28645-4

me  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

SAC, Atlanta (105-81)

August 12, 1954

RECORDED - 82

Director, FBI (105-28645) - 14

b2  
b7D  
b7E

EX-119

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurlet dated August 4, 1954.

Based on your recommendation authority is granted to pay [ ] up to [ ] for actual expenses incurred in connection with trip to Columbus, Georgia, for the purpose of contacting Mrs. Jesse Jenkins and others regarding scope of activity of organizations in which Jenkins is interested.

Information obtained by [ ] should be promptly reported under the appropriate case caption.

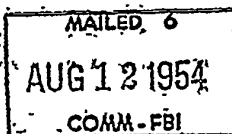
NOTE ON YELLOW:

In July, 1954, Mrs. Jenkins sponsored a meeting in Columbus, Georgia, for the purpose of organizing various groups having similar views on segregation and to be based on Ku Klux Klan principles. It is believed we should authorize Atlanta to pay [ ] up to [ ] in connection with this trip. [ ] is a reliable, paid informant.

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Mohr  
Trotter  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Miss Gandy

RET:glg

53 AUG 19 1954



Landline

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-28645)

DATE: August 3, 1954

FROM : SAC, Miami (105-677)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdhSUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY -Xb2  
b7D

Reference is made to Miami letter to the Bureau dated June 29, 1954, and to Bureau letter to Miami dated July 13, 1954, concerning the above entitled matter.

Confidential Informant [redacted] attended a meeting on July 10, 1954, at the County Courthouse in Columbus, Ohio. He furnished the following information on July 13, 1954, to SA BENNETT M. HIRSH, Jacksonville, Florida:

Informant stated the meeting was called to order at 10 AM in the County Courthouse at Columbus, Georgia, in the Grand Jury room by Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS. The meeting was originally planned for the Courtroom but because Court was in session the meeting was not held there.

Informant advised that at the start of the meeting Mrs. JENKINS distributed copies consisting of a two page typewritten document headed "Platform of National Patrick Henry Organization, Incorporated, Outline and Objectives For Action, Strategy, To Restore Constitutional Government and Keep America American". Informant also advised that there was passed out at the beginning of the meeting an outline of

RM

BMH: efs

cc:

- 1 - Savannah (RM)
- 1 - Atlanta (RM)
- 1 - Memphis (RM)
- 1 - MM 105-602
- 1 - [redacted]

RECORDED - 36

INDEXED - 36

EX-129

10 AUG 4 1954

INT SEC

Lto Atlanta  
8-13-54  
RFT

1174  
AUG 22 1954

MM 105-677  
Lt. to Director

the program for the day of conference. This program was not followed and according is not being set forth at this point.

Informant advised that the following persons were present at the convention of the Patrick Henry Organization:

1. HARRY WILLIAM PYLE William J. Griffin
2. W. J. GRiffin, Tampa, Florida, Member of the Imperial Council of the Association of the Florida Klans G-2
3. C. J. BINKLEY (ph), Florence, South Carolina ( the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners Organization; lists a person by the name of J. H. BICKLEY, South Carolina, as a member of the advisory board of the Pro-Southerners.) It is possible that J. H. BICKLEY is the individual who attended and whom informant understood to be C. J. BINKLEY. G-2

According to informant, BINKLEY was head of the White Camellias of State Rights Clubs of South Carolina.

4. Mr. SCOTT, first name not known, who accompanied Mr. BINKLEY and who was from a town near Florence, South Carolina;
5. Mr. SAWYER, first name not known, whom informant described about 6' in his early 40's, slender build, sandy hair, cheerful disposition, 155 to 160 lbs, and in the construction business in South Carolina. G-2

Informant described Mr. SCOTT as 45 to 50 years of age, about 5'8", 140-145 lbs, receding hairline, wore glasses and of tallow complexion; S. C. G-2

6. L. A. DAVIS, St. Petersburg, Florida, who did not represent any organization but appeared individually. G-2

MM 105-677  
Lt. to Director

7. Dr. A.C. ~~X~~SCHULER, Baptist Preacher, long active in the KKK; G-2

8. FRANCIS ~~X~~McHALE D.C. G-2

9. WESLEY ~~X~~COULLETTE G-3

10. Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS

11. A Mrs. ~~X~~CRANE of Atlanta, Georgia, whom informant described as being a white female, about 45 years of age, heavy build, rather chesty, grey hair, medium complexion.

Informant advised that Mrs. JENKINS was secretary and treasurer of the Patrick Henry Organization, Incorporated, that immediately after the meeting was opened, she turned it over to HARRY WILLIAM ~~X~~PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee, who is G-2 editor of the "Political Reporter" in that city and apparently resides or has his place of business at 3601 South Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tenn.

Mr. PYLE served as acting chairman of the convention.

Mr. PYLE immediately asked each member to give a brief talk. Informant said that each one present did give a talk, brief in nature, and that all of their remarks were very general and were to the effect that they all favored uniting the efforts of the various organizations who believed in white supremacy and who opposed segregation.

The election of officers followed next.

The informant stated that all present were elected to membership in the board of directors of the Patrick Henry Organization.

Reverend A.C. ~~X~~SCHULER was elected chairman of the

MM 105-677

Lt. to Director

Patrick Henry Organization for the coming year. Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS was re-elected secretary and treasurer and Mrs. CRANE was elected to be in charge of Public Relations and Research.

A coordinating committee was then suggested and the group nominated and elected Mr. L.A. DAVIS of St. Petersburg as chairman of this committee.

Mr. DAVIS then appointed HARRY WILLIAM PYLE and BICKLEY(ph) to his committee.

FRANCIS McHALE was appointed legal advisor and counsellor of the Patrick Henry Organization.

The discussion that followed indicated the group needed a set of by-laws and whereupon Mr. McHALE and SCHULER were designated to prepare such after which they would be submitted to the group for necessary approval.

A discussion concerning the dues to be paid the Patrick Henry Organization by its members then followed and it was determined and voted that each member should pay the sum of \$2.00 per year.

Dr. SCHULER spoke on the general topic of the wonderful groups and organizations which he felt had come into existence for the purpose of fighting against segregation. He discussed the long period of time he had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, indicating that he had been such a member since World War I. He told the group that he had lost a great many pulpits because of the fact that he had retained his Klan membership.

Informant stated that SCHULER, as a preacher, spoke at length but said very little. Informant also got the impression that Dr. SCHULER knew very little about the Patrick Henry Organization.

MM 105-677  
Lt. to Director

FRANCIS McHALE, also a regular speaker on the program, discussed his personal efforts in bringing suit in Federal Court in which he opposed the regulations against segregation on military reservations. He also discussed the Supreme Court decision concerning the attendance of Negroes at Public Schools, and talked of the fact that he had been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C. He stated also to file many more actions in Federal Court against non-segregation on military reservations and that he had already filed six such suits in the names of other persons, however, and he needed additional money to carry this work forward.

Informant advised that McHALE told the group that he had lost all of the suits which he had filed thus far.

Informant stated that Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS then addressed the group and spoke for only about ten minutes. He stated she touched on the material listed in her platform under the National Patrick Henry Organization and also spoke on her opposition to the 14th and 15th Amendment.

Informant also stated that Mrs. JENKINS objected to the UN in very strong language.

W.J. GRIFFIN next addressed the group and told of the success of his Florida Association of Klans in Florida, advising that he had organized 31 Klaverns in the State; that the group had a 12 point active program and was making progress. He told of a recent State Meeting of the Association of Florida Klans at Live Oak, Florida, where he told he had taken in a number of young members of college age.

GRIFFIN told the group that his organization was the only active Klan Group in the United States at the present time and added that possibly there were a few individual, independent Klaverns in existence. He stated the main purpose



MM 105-677  
Lt. to Director

of the Klan was to fight for segregation and that his Klan would cooperate with the Patrick Henry Organization and with all such groups.

Informant advised that during the time that BINKLEY spoke, he told of the strength of the White Camelias of States Rights Clubs in South Carolina, and stated that this organization existed throughout the state of South Carolina and that its main purpose was to work with the Parent-Teachers Associations and school officials to keep segregation in the schools.

Informant advised that no actual detailed discussion took place of the platform of the National Patrick Henry Organization or its outline and objectives for action. He stated that the resolution referred to therein which supposedly was to be passed by the group was never presented and no such resolution was passed.

Informant stated the lunch period was omitted and the meeting continued from 10AM until 3 PM when it was adjourned.

Informant advised that actually no definite plans were made or any action taken at the convention in any specific direction.

Informant stated in a conference with BINKLEY, PYLE, SCOTT and SAWYER of South Carolina, BINKLEY admitted that the Camelia group in South Carolina which he headed was merely a front for the Klan in South Carolina. He said that it was organized since TOM HAMILTON of the Ku Klux Klan in his trouble there. BINKLEY mentioned that over 150 Klan members had gotten into trouble as a result of Klan activities in that area.

Informant also advised that subsequently he had a conversation with WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN at a local hotel in Columbus and that at that time GRIFFIN indicated that BILL HENDRIX, former head of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux

MM 105-677  
Lt. to Director

Klan was completely "washed up" as far as the <sup>Ku Klux</sup> Klan was concerned and that HENDRIX was through. Informant also advised that he was told by FRANCIS McHALE that BILLY HENDRIX was being sued by certain groups of persons who had advanced him money to do certain organizational work and that HENDRIX had used this money for personal purposes. F/3

Informant stated that HENDRIX told him he had an active Association of Florida Klan Group in Jacksonville and that McHALE was now in that organization. Informant stated GRIFFIN gave McHALE his permanent Association of Florida Klan Membership Card at that time.

Informant also advised that before the general conference of the Patrick Henry Organization was closed it was decided to raise a legal fund to assist McHALE in his efforts of at least \$500.00 and that efforts would be made to obtain this money from various organizations interested in the purposes in which the Patrick Henry Organization was interested.

Informant stated that the minutes of the conference were to be written up and that all those present would receive copies thereof.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sch

SAC, Atlanta

August 16, 1954

Director, FBI

NATIONAL PATRICK HENRY ORGANIZATION, INC.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Re Miami letter dated August 3, 1954, captioned  
"Pro-Southerners, Internal Security - X," a copy of which  
was designated for your office.

In view of the information contained in relet  
you are instructed to reopen your investigation of the  
captioned organization and submit a current investigative  
report bringing the activities of this organization up  
to date. This report should be prepared in accordance  
with the instructions contained in Section 87 D of the  
Manual of Instructions. It is desired that this report  
reach the Bureau no later than 60 days from the date  
this communication is received in your office.

cc - Bufile 105-28645

105-28645-V  
NOT RECORDED  
179 AUG 18 1954

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RET:glg

AUG 24 1954

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
AUG 16 1954  
MAILED

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-28645-V

Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-28645)

DATE: 8-18-54

FROM : SAC, Memphis (105-98)

SUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
IS - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

Re Miami letter to Bureau dated 6-29-54.

On 8-13-54, Miss [redacted], Clerk, Office of the Secretary of State, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that there is no record of the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., or the Pro-Southerners being incorporated in the State of Tennessee.

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RUC.

FWM:MRS

REGISTERED MAIL

CC - 1 - Miami (105-677) (RM)  
1 - Atlanta

EX-122

RECORDED-127

105-98-675-6  
AUG 23 1954

W-1 SEC

57 AUG 26 1954

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-7801)

DATE: August 24, 1954

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (100-11349)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN  
aka AMERICAN CONFEDERATE ARMY  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

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PRO - SOUTHERN KNIGHTS

Following is a memorandum covering the activities of BILL HENDRIX, Imperial Emperor of the Southern Knights of the KuKlux Klan, and L. A. DAVIS, State Officer of the organization, on a trip covering the period of July 2 through July 10, 1954, in which they contacted leaders of similar organizations throughout the southeastern states. Adequate copies of this memo are being supplied to the Bureau and interested offices so that a copy of this memorandum can be placed in the files of related organizations.

On July 16, 1954, [ ] advised that on Friday, July 2, 1954, L. A. DAVIS and BILL HENDRIX left Tallahassee, Florida, and traveled by automobile to Mobile, Alabama, arriving in Mobile on the evening of July 2, 1954, at which time HENDRIX called ALBERT ELMORE, organizer of "The Southerners", and advised ELMORE that he and DAVIS would contact him on their return trip through Mobile.

They then proceeded to Natchez, Mississippi, where they met Mr. and Mrs. FORREST WOLF and JOHN HAMILTON, officials of the National Citizens Protective Association, from St. Louis, Missouri. That evening the group discussed possibilities of uniting the forces of the Southern Knights of the KKK with the NCPA, but failed to reach an agreement.

HENDRIX explained to the officials of the NCPA that the people in the South felt that the "Yankees" brought about the

MMJ:azm  
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Copies: 12 Bureau  
3 Atlanta  
2 Birmingham  
2 Charlotte  
2 Houston  
2 Memphis  
3 Mobile  
2 New Orleans  
2 Savannah  
2 St. Louis  
2 WFO

MM 105-579(NCPA)  
MM 105-602(AFK)  
MM 105-677(PS)  
MM 105-761(NAAPMWP)

105-28645-✓  
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ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-7801-1832

MM 100-11349

race problem and that now the "Yankees" can solve their difficulties by themselves, and that the South will take care of matters in their own way without interference or advice from the North. In response to this, FORREST WOLF, the National Chairman of the NCPA, and HAMILTON bragged about their accomplishments from a standpoint of the growth of their organization.

~~The only decisions reached as a result of this conference~~ was that HENDRIX insisted that he could not get the members of the Southern Knights of the KKK to organize units of the NCPA in the South, and that all he could do would be to continue to furnish the "White Sentinel", publication of the NCPA, with all memberships that he, HENDRIX, sells to the American Confederate Army.

For the benefit of offices who may not be familiar with the American Confederate Army, this is an organization formed by HENDRIX to be used as a front for the Southern Knights of the KKK and the purpose of the instant trip was to contact Judge GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG of Natchez, Mississippi, for financial backing of the American Confederate Army, and also to contact Governor HERMAN TALMADGE of Atlanta, Georgia, to secure his cooperation as a public leader of this Army.

On the following day, Saturday, July 3, 1954, the above mentioned group proceeded to the farm of Judge GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG a few miles from Natchez. The group was warmly received by Mrs. ARMSTRONG, who appeared to be personally acquainted with BILL HENDRIX, and exhibited considerable interest in his work with the American Confederate Army. She explained to HENDRIX and the others that Judge ARMSTRONG had recently suffered from a stroke and was too ill to receive the group, but that he would be keenly disappointed to learn that HENDRIX had been there and the Judge was unable to see him. HENDRIX discussed in detail with Mrs. ARMSTRONG the plans for the American Confederate Army and received her assurance that if she could in any way help, she would be glad to do so. Inasmuch as HENDRIX was unable to see Judge ARMSTRONG, he did not make the proposal to Mrs. ARMSTRONG concerning financial backing of the American Confederate Army.

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During a subsequent conversation within this group not in the presence of Mrs. ARMSTRONG, both WOLF and HAMILTON stated that Judge ARMSTRONG was the financial backer of MCGINLEY and his publication, "Common Sense". This information was subsequently verified by HARRY W. PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee, during his trip to Columbus, Georgia, on July 9 and 10, 1954.

On Sunday, July 4, 1954, HENDRIX and DAVIS departed from Natchez, Mississippi, and proceeded to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as HENDRIX was under the impression that the State Legislature was in session during Sunday to hear matters on segregation bills, and if so, he, HENDRIX, would be able to contact some of the legislators. On arriving at Baton Rouge, it was learned that there was no Sunday session, so HENDRIX and DAVIS proceeded to New Orleans, where ROBERT ANDERSON, of Beaumont, Texas, was supposed to meet them.

ROBERT ANDERSON was identified by [redacted] as the man who had undertaken to promote the American Confederate Army and "The White Brotherhood" in Texas. The "White Brotherhood" is a mythical organization, also known as the "White Brotherhood of Bethel", which HENDRIX is accepting membership to, but which, according to information available at the present time, has not yet been organized. ANDERSON was further identified by informant as an old Klan organizer and a former organizer for the AF of L.

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ANDERSON failed to keep his appointment on Sunday or Monday morning with HENDRIX and DAVIS in New Orleans, and on Monday, July 5, 1954, HENDRIX and DAVIS proceeded to Moss Point, Mississippi.

Enroute there, they stopped at the Jefferson Davis Memorial, where HENDRIX explained his idea of the American Confederate Army to two women attendants, who displayed a keen interest in his plans. He promised to send them Colonels' commissions in the American Confederate Army, and they in turn promised to get others to join this organization. Subsequently in the trip, while in Atlanta, Georgia, HENDRIX mailed these commissions to both parties.

At Moss Point, Mississippi, HENDRIX and DAVIS found that FRANK CUNNINGHAM, who was the party they were interested in contacting, was at work and they were unable to contact him.

MM 100-11349

Informant identified CUNNINGHAM as an electrician employed by the International Paper Company at Moss Point. DAVIS and HENDRIX then returned to Mobile.

On Tuesday, July 6, 1954, ALBERT ELMORE, organizer of "The Southerners", visited HENDRIX and DAVIS at their hotel. ELMORE stated that the WOLF's and HAMILTON had contacted him on the previous Sunday, but they looked like a pair of "Jews" to him and that he did not want anything to do with them.

ELMORE advised HENDRIX and DAVIS that he had been a member of the Klan at Demopolis, Alabama, from 1923 to 1931. He also advised them that he has a membership as of that date of 430 paid members in "The Southerners", and that of these 430 paid members, 100 are ex-Klansmen. He also stated that his organization had joined with "The American States Rights Association" of Birmingham, Alabama, and that his contact with this organization was through a Mr. HORTON, who lives at 2112 Second or Third Avenue, in Birmingham.

ELMORE also stated that the Southerners were going to organize in Meridian, Mississippi, within the next 30 days. ELMORE stated, too, that "Macon, Georgia, was hot" and that someone should organize there in the immediate future. He also stated that he had received a letter from a Mrs. J. C. BRUINGTON of Pensacola, Florida, and that she was very interested in the segregation question at the present time.

ELMORE explained that The Southerners were charging \$2 for membership, but that this fee was not sufficient to carry on the expenses of the organization, and that they are now approximately \$450 in the hole. In this regard, he explained that the American States Rights Association of Birmingham have two types of membership, one which carries the privilege of voting with the membership dues of \$25 a year, and a non-voting membership with dues of only \$2 a year.

ELMORE also assured HENDRIX that he would suggest to all of his members that they join the American Confederate Army. HENDRIX did not stress this with ELMORE inasmuch as he had given FRANK CUNNINGHAM of Moss Point, Mississippi, the right to organize a unit of the American Confederate Army in Mobile, Alabama.



MM 100-11349

According to ELMORE, he plans a big public meeting within the next few weeks and hopes to secure a politician as speaker. ELMORE explained that he expected to greatly increase the membership of his organization from such a meeting.

After their conference with ELMORE, HENDRIX and DAVIS then returned to Moss Point, Mississippi, where they met FRANK CUNNINGHAM. CUNNINGHAM was very enthusiastic about the forming of the American Confederate Army and had previously sent to HENDRIX a check in the amount of \$15 to cover membership fees for the first five members that he had recruited.

Informant identified FRANK CUNNINGHAM also as a member of the Pascagoula Klan, where he held the office of Klokard. CUNNINGHAM stated to HENDRIX that he believed that this Klan was still operating though there had been little activity of late. CUNNINGHAM stated that he was confident that he would be able to solicit membership for at least 2,000 Colonels in the American Confederate Army by September 1, and that he would be able to secure from this group a "safe" inner group with which to form a Klan unit.

CUNNINGHAM also explained to HENDRIX that he planned to enter an American Confederate Army float in the Labor Day Parade at Mobile, Alabama, and it was his intention to have the men on the float dressed in Confederate army uniform, and the girls dressed in ante-bellum costumes. After the parade, he plans to use the float in a motorcade from Mobile to New Orleans stopping enroute to solicit membership in the American Confederate Army.

It is through this method that CUNNINGHAM intended to launch the membership drive in that area for the American Confederate Army. CUNNINGHAM also requested HENDRIX to send him a Confederate flag approximately four by five feet. Informant stated that CUNNINGHAM had been commissioned as a Lt. General in the American Confederate Army.

On July 7, 1954, HENDRIX and DAVIS left Mobile for Atlanta, Georgia, and on arriving in Atlanta, were unable to contact Governor HERMAN TALMADGE. On the following day, HENDRIX learned from the Governor's office that TALMADGE would be in Griffin, Georgia, making a speech, and intended to go from Griffin to his farm.

MM 100-11349

Accordingly, HENDRIX and DAVIS proceeded to Griffin, Georgia, but there, too, failed to contact TALMADGE. While in Griffin, HENDRIX wanted to meet R. L. ADDLETON, one of the organizers of the National Association for the Advancement and Protection of the Majority of the White People. HENDRIX and DAVIS located ADDLETON at his office and spent approximately three or four hours discussing the old time Klansmen.

ADDLETON indicated that he had been personally acquainted with SIMMONS, EVANS, and GREEN, all former Imperial Wizards of the former Associated Klans of America. ADDLETON also advised HENDRIX that he had first joined the Klan in 1924. He stated that in response to the organization of the National Association for the Advancement and Protection of the Majority of the White People, Inc., he had received mail from all parts of the country, which was substantiated by the fact that there was still unopened mail on his desk bearing postmarks from Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, and other places.

ADDLETON supplied HENDRIX with a copy of a handbill entitled, "TO THE WHITE PEOPLE OF AMERICA", which was issued by the NAAFPWP, Inc., Post Office Box 327, Griffin, Georgia. This read as follows:

"On June 9th, 1954 a corporation was formed and chartered by the state of Georgia, under the name of THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE WHITE PEOPLE, INC.

"This organization was chartered as a non-profit sharing organization, to render a service to the white race of the United States. The sole purpose under the charter of this organization is, to defend or prosecute any cases in any court, which is necessary, to protect and uphold any or all civil rights pertaining to segregation, and protecting the white race against the aggression of such minority groups as the NAACP.

"The organization was chartered and dedicated to get the white people of America to unite in one common cause against any further aggression by the NAACP or any other minority group, which are now attempting to destroy the white race. The white people of America

MM 100-11349

"know, that the NAACP has been inspired by other racial groups, and especially the Communist Party, which have arrayed themselves to break down every tradition of the white people of America, and to force upon us a Mongolian race of people, which of course, if allowed to continue with such aggression against the white race will cause us to be pushed back and become slaves, and servants of this great monster the NAACP.

"We have received thousands of letters, long distance telephone calls and telegrams, from every part of the United States, as a result of the news items published by the newspapers of America which was released to them by the Associated Press from its branch office in Atlanta, Georgia. This demonstrates to us beyond a reasonable doubt, that the white people of America are now determined to join hands and put up a fight for our existence and for which our fore-fathers dedicated their lives for, fought, bled and died to give the white people of America their freedom.

"The organization has set the membership fee at \$7.00 per member, and \$7.00 per year per member thereafter. There are no other assessments or dues against any member other than the \$7.00 per year. In the charter granted to our organization it was provided; that the organization in addition to the membership fee, could receive contributions and donations to help carry on the great work of this organization. Upon receipt of any membership fee, it entitles the person to receive a membership card in which he or she becomes a part of the organization in helping us in any way possible to carry on the work in getting new members.

"The present officers of the organization are, Mr. William D. Derickson, President. Mr. Derickson is a business man who has been engaged as a photographer and has operated in the states of South Carolina and Georgia for the past 22 years. Mr. Derickson now owns and operates the largest commercial studio, in Griffin, Georgia.

MM 100-11349

"R.L. Addleton, Secretary-Treasurer and General Counsel, has been engaged in the practice of law for the past 27 years. He served as the representative from Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia, in the General Assembly of Georgia, 1947-1948. Mr. Addleton was appointed by Honorable Herman E. Talmadge, Governor of Georgia, on November 18, 1948, as Assistant Attorney General of Georgia, and has served in this capacity for the past five and one half years. Mr. Addleton was the organizer and obtained the charter for this organization.

"For any reference as to the type and character of people who formed this organization we refer you to the following; Honorable Herman E. Talmadge, Governor of Georgia, State Capital, Atlanta, Georgia; Honorable Marvin Griffin, Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, State Capital, Atlanta, Georgia; Honorable Eugene Cook, Attorney General of Georgia, State Capital, Atlanta, Georgia; Honorable Ben W. Fortson, Jr., Secretary of State, State Capital, Atlanta, Georgia; Honorable Chester A. Byars, Judge, Superior Court, Griffin Judicial Circuit, address, Griffin, Georgia, and Mr. D. R. Cumming, President of the State Bank, Griffin, Georgia.

"The aims and purposes of this organization in addition to what has been stated, are to refrain from holding any prejudice or malice toward any race of people, but solely dedicated to the purposes above stated in protecting any civil rights of the white people, and to stop any further aggression by any minority group, which wishes to break down segregation between the races and force upon us their way of thinking and life.

"Please make all remittances by checks upon National banks, bank money orders or cashier check.

"THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE WHITE PEOPLE, INC.

"Post Office Box 327

"Griffin, Georgia"

MM 100-11349

Arriving back in Atlanta, HENDRIX placed a call to the Governor's office and made an appointment to see TALMADGE in the Governor's Mansion. HENDRIX and DAVIS met both the Governor and his wife at the Mansion and were received very cordially. During the time of that visit, some other people arrived at the Governor's Mansion and Governor TALMADGE called HENDRIX into another room where he talked privately with HENDRIX for several minutes.

Governor TALMADGE advised HENDRIX that if he, HENDRIX, would "furnish the fodder" that he, TALMADGE, would "furnish the fire". He also advised HENDRIX that CHARLES KLINE, the former Executive Secretary of the Association of Georgia Klans, had been attempting to secure a political job through TALMADGE's influence, but that he, TALMADGE, had no intentions of assisting him. According to HENDRIX, it was TALMADGE's opinion that KLINE was a "Jew" and mixed up with the B'nai B'rith.

After leaving the Governor's Mansion, HENDRIX and DAVIS then proceeded to Columbus, Georgia, where HENDRIX then took a bus to Tallahassee, Florida. According to informant, DAVIS remained at Columbus, Georgia, to attend a meeting scheduled for July 10, of the Patrick Henry Association.

On arriving at the hotel, DAVIS found W. J. GRIFFIN, Grand Dragon of the Association of Florida Klans, in the lobby. Shortly after dinner, HARRY PYLE, of Memphis, Tennessee, arrived and subsequently G. G. SAWYER, of Florence, South Carolina; J. H. BICKLEY, Marion, South Carolina; and a man named SCOTT, of Mullins, South Carolina, arrived. Inasmuch as all of these parties were in Columbus, Georgia, to attend the Patrick Henry Association meeting, they became engaged in conversation.

At approximately ten p.m. Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, of Columbus, Georgia, also joined the group and stayed for approximately one hour. The others continued their conversation until approximately two a.m.

During the course of the conversation, W. J. GRIFFIN stated that he had the only Klan organization now in Florida, and that it was larger than any previous Klan organizations ever formed in the State of Florida. He claimed to have 31 Klaverns operating in the northern section of Florida. He also claimed

MM 100-11349

that a man named DE BRAY (IVAN DE BRAY), Public Relations Director of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of Florida, was one of his state officers.

According to informant, GRIFFIN spent a good portion of time criticizing HENDRIX, whom he claimed he had seen the previous night in Tallahassee. This, of course, was obviously a falsehood as HENDRIX had spent the previous night in Atlanta, Georgia. He also accused HENDRIX of having deserted his family and was now living with another woman at Perry, Georgia. Previous information supplied by [ ] also definitely indicated that this, too, is a falsehood.

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GRIFFIN did state during the conversation that he had appointed M. B. SHERRILL, present organizer for the Pro Southerners in the State of Florida, as the Grand Titan for the Eastern Coast territory of Florida for the Association of Florida Klans.

During the course of the discussion, DAVIS suggested that the entire group representing various organizations should submit at the meeting the following day of the Patrick Henry Association a plan to organize a top committee to be made up of the heads of all organizations that would meet from time to time and unite their efforts, but to continue all of the separate organizations as they now exist. This suggestion met with the approval of all present, and BICKLEY, of South Carolina, was designated to make such a motion at the meeting the following day.

In a private conversation between SAWYER, BICKLEY, SCOTT, and DAVIS, SAWYER stated that TOM HAMILTON, former head of the Association of Carolina Klans, gave up his position when he was sentenced to prison and SAWYER took over the active operation of the Carolina Klans. SAWYER stated that the organization had continued to exist since that time, and now operates as the "White Camillia Association of States Rights Clubs". He stated that some of the local units still use the Klan name, as each individual Klavern selects any name that it wishes. He advised that this organization was operating in approximately 31 of the 47 counties of South Carolina, and that in the last election, they carried all but one of their political candidates into office.

MM 100-11349

During the conversation, SAWYER identified G. L. IVEY, Ivey's Tavern, Florence, South Carolina, as President of the Florence Unit, and TOMMIE MILLER of Miller and Arthur Insurance Agents, Florence, South Carolina, as the Vice President. He also stated that his organization had joined with the NAAWP of Washington, D.C. He stated that this outfit charges \$2 for individual membership and \$1 each for group members.

On the following day, July 10, 1954, a meeting was held of the Patrick Henry Association in the Grand Jury Room of the Court House at Columbus, Georgia, convening at ten a.m. and lasting until approximately two p.m. The meeting was opened by Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, after HARRY PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee, took over the chair as Chairman. Mrs. JENKINS stressed that all of the organizations represented at this meeting could work more effectively under the Patrick Henry charters and urged that each organization should be chartered by the Patrick Henry Association.

Mr. BICKLEY, in accordance with the previous arrangement, then stated that all of the organizations were progressing satisfactorily and he was sure would not consider making any such change. He then proposed the setting up of a top committee composed of the heads of each of the organizations which would meet from time to time to coordinate the work of the various outfits. After this matter was discussed, a motion was made that such a committee be formed. This motion was passed and L. A. DAVIS was elected Chairman. He then appointed W. J. GRIFFIN of Tampa, J. H. BICKLEY of Marion, South Carolina, and HARRY PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee, as committeemen.

Informant stated that a new Board of Directors for the Patrick Henry Association was named and elected. Informant stated that among those present at this meeting were Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Mrs. NELDA CAIN, both of Columbus, Georgia; HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Memphis, Tennessee; FRANCIS MC HALE, and WESLEY H. COULLIETTE, of Jacksonville, Florida; WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, Tampa, Florida; L. A. DAVIS, St. Petersburg, Florida; G. G. SAWYER, Florence, South Carolina; J. H. BICKLEY, and (First Name Unknown) SCOTT, South Carolina.

On July 26, 1954, informant made available to the Miami Office a copy of the minutes of instant meeting, which set forth the elected officers as:

MM 100-11349

National President, Dr. A. C. SHULER  
National Vice-President, HARRY WILLIAM PYLE  
National Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. JESSIE W. JENKINS.  
National Directors  
LUCILLE S. MILLER  
MANUEL MILLER  
ALTON THATCHER  
FRANCIS M. MC HALE  
J. H. BICKLEY  
M. B. SHERRILL  
PETER XAVIER  
WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN  
Dr. T. R. MONTGOMERY  
L. A. DAVIS  
W. H. COULLIETTE  
Mrs. NELDA CAIN

Informant also made available a copy of the platform of the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., which purported to be an outline and objectives for action strategy. It was captioned, "TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AND KEEP AMERICA AMERICAN". This platform reads as follows:

"Whereas, the inalienable rights of our Declaration of Independence are being tramped under foot and our Constitution - the wise and time tested formula for our REPRESENTATIVE Republican Government with its checks and balances; its safeguards of individual liberty - has become a doorway for unscrupulous, avaricious men:

"Whereas, the Constitution provides for punishment of those who violate it, or who prove disloyal, and the declaration provides the remedy when men show more love for their 'jobs' than for their country, in the following clear and unmistakable language: - 'That whenever any form of Government (or administration?) becomes destructive of these rights, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it;'

"Whereas, thru a series of Marxist inspired legislative sets, beginning with the 14th and 15th amendments of the tragic sixties, resulting from a 'foreign' instigated Civil War, and an abortive Congress of bribed prostitutes, under the direction of usurper, Thad Stevens;



"Whereas, only 55 years later, and only a few years after the second influx of 'Russiaite' revolutionist in 1881, paralleling the influx of 'refugees' purportedly fleeing Karl Marx' revolution in Germany, allegedly, the same sinister forces rammed thru Congress over bitter protest the greatest swindle ever perpetrated against a free action - The Rothschild-Warburg Federal Reserve Act of 1913, by which the this continuing world 'communist' conspiracy obtained control of our money system--hence our Gov't;

"Whereas, this was implemented in 1916 by the unconstitutional, Marxist 16th amendment - the graduated income tax to fleece our people of their earnings for what we now know as schemes for communizing the whole world;

"Whereas, this was followed by the further unconstitutional 17th amendment, making Senatorial aspirants subject to bribery in the general elections, the same as Presidential candidates - hand picked - can be seated against the wishes of the people in violations of the provision for appointments by state legislatures;

"Whereas, the Wagner Act; the institution of the so-called 'Bi-partisan' (One party) 'foreign' policy, which is in fact a totalitarian trend, and other schemes and devices for circumventing that sacred document - the Supreme Law of our land, PROVES BEYOND DOUBT that lawless racketeers control our government, and it becomes our sacred duty to oust the offenders;

"Therefore, be it resolved that by the Board of Directors of the Nat'l Patrick Henry Org'n. Inc., in conference assembled, at Museegee Court House, this the 10th day of July, 1954:

"That this and all affiliated organizations and groups, wage an intensive campaign from the local to the state levels, to abolish all four iniquitous amendments, procured thru political chicanery and fraud, at the instigation of 'foreigners' we must now reorganize as ENEMIES for self-defense;

MM 100-11349.

"That these self same enemies, having infiltrated all our educational institutions, including religious, to poison the minds of our people for subversive purposes; also, all civic groups, radio and television to spread their subversive propaganda, have forfeited their privilege of living among us, as a peace loving, Christian nation, desirous of maintaining a proper atmosphere for the development of our children;

3. "That since our American way and traditions seem so obnoxious to those paganistic old world 'liberals', we solemnly declare that as has been forced on other governments in the past, that they be reorganized as ENEMIES constantly warring against us and drafting us into 'foreign' wars, our only hope for survival and peace requires that we EXPEL them to Madagascar where they can build the kind of 'culture' they want for themselves;

4. "That we bring sufficient pressure to this end upon our Representatives who have taken an oath to uphold the constitution, and demand the resignation of all who show opposition to our offers to SAVE OUR HOME LAND; to RESCUE our money system; to STOP this impending Asian war, and END this foreign instigated wars that official Washington ILLEGALLY draft our sons to fight and appropriate our money to finance.

5. "That we oppose with all our right UN, NATO, and UMT for such purposes and demand the return of our troops from foreign soil, to defend our own land, now swarming with an estimated 5 million illegal entrants, with nobody knows how many revolutionists, while we have less than 1 full division on our own soil. . which obviously is planned TREASON;

6. "That we demand severance of diplomatic relations with Russia, whose masters aspire to World government thru their UN and who now control half the world, with their bloody hands at our throats, which makes it encumbent upon us to drive UN from American soil, with all its treasonable agencies and commitments;

MM 100-11349

7."That we likewise repudiate NATO, another 'communist' been doggling scheme, wherein traitorous persons collaborating with Communists, build up their power while expressing other peace loving people, and likewise with all its secret, treasonable treaties, commitments, by disloyal men;

8."That we demand an end to labor unionism except on a local level for personal improvement and civic betterment, disallowing pressure tae ties which amount to duress:

9."Repudiate both the Bolshevik controlled political parties; let 'Republicans' be proud to join the Constitution Party, and 'Democrats' should do their children the honor of joining the Liberty Party - to perpetuate the Liberty for which our fathers pledged their lives their fortunes their sacred honor;

10."Last but most important: Clean out all our Educational Institutions to try to undo some of the mischief of the past half century - to restore the old time religion of our fathers to our pulpits, and the principles which have ours the greatest nation on earth - our duty to posterity.

"Your comments and suggestions are solicited."

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-28645)

DATE: 9/21/54

FROM : SAC, Atlanta [ ]

SUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - Xb2  
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Rebulet August 12, 1954 authorizing payment of [ ] to [ ] for expenses incurred in connection with a trip to Columbus, Georgia for the purpose of contacting Mrs. JESSE JENKINS and others regarding scope of activity of organizations in which JENKINS is interested. [ ] furnished the following report, same being prepared on the history of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Association of Georgia Klans.

"TRIP TO COLUMBUS, GA. ON AUGUST 24, 1954.

"Arrived in Columbus at approx. 10 A.M. and went directly to the Baptist Tabernacle on 17th St. to see Parson Jack Johnston. Parson Jack was sleeping but his assistant Mr. Slade (an old KKK organizer) spoke with me. He stated that the KKK in Columbus under Fred New had disbanded for the time being and he doubted if they would become active again immediately. He mentioned a Mrs. Alenbaugh (Elenbaugh) of Macon who had several meetings with Parson Jack and that she was the organizer of the White Circle League in Georgia. He also told me Parson Jack was assisting her. He knew nothing of the Pro-Southern or camelia groups. Was one time sympathetic to Mrs. Jesse Jenkins Patrick Henry group, but that they were inactive. He said he did not believe that the white circle group had 50 members in Georgia. He then spoke on Bill Hendrix and Tom Hamilton and said they were invited by Mrs. Jenkins to speak when they did in 1952 in the tabernacle, and that this caused a definite breach between her and Parson Jack. Offered to assist me in getting the KKK going again in Columbus.

"Parson Jack then showed up; and at first seemed very aloof to see me, but soon started telling about all he could do.

HEK:km  
REGISTERED

RECORDED - 82 / 105-28645-7

CC: 61-56  
105-251  
105-81  
105-179  
105-88  
105-242  
105-197  
105-238  
105-169  
105-261

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 4-1-91 BY SP2 BJS/CL

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to help organiza again in Columbus. He denied membership in the white circle league, but did say he had correspondence with Mrs. Ed. Alenbaugh. Did not have any letters to show. He stated that the pro-southern group had been headed by one Red Crowder (Former officer in Columbus KKK), but that Crowder had gone bankrupt, left his wife and family, and has also left Columbus, which I found to be true when I checked at the garage he used to run. When Crowder left so did the Pro-Southern group, which had been made up of former Klansmen. The different National associations and preservation groups have written but that has been the limit of their activity.

He stated that recent cross-burning must have been a neighbor or a former member of their Klan group. I asked for a membership list of the Columbus unit of the KKK, and he said that He would have to get it from Fred New who has been very ill and stays all the time at his home in Hamilton, Georgia.

Went then to 2417 Hamilton Rd. to see Mrs. Jesse Jenkins. Mrs. Jenkins is a woman of about 60 and weighs around 80 pounds due to a collapse suffered last March. She said her Patrick Henry group are waiting on her to get well and that she did not believe she ever would be able to do any more writing or speech making. She also mentioned the White Circle group and Mrs. Alenbaugh of Macon, and told me Parson Jack had asked her to join that group, but she detests Mrs. Alenbaugh and Joe Beauharnias of Chicago. She also said she did not believe they had 50 members in all Georgia. The Camellia group was an auxiliary of the Patrick Henry group and amounted to only women for readings of current events. The pro-southern group that she knew disbanded in 1950 when the Patrick Henry group took over. The Patrick Henry group is not doing anything and she would not disclose membership but from all appearances I personally think she is the only member. She spoke highly of Tom Hamilton and the way he was wronged in South Carolina, and hopes to have enough strength some day to vindicate him. Very little regard for Hendrix because of last appearance their and effort to organize his own klan from her members. It was her members present when Hamilton and Hendrix spoke in Columbus in 1952. This group has little or no finances and Mrs. Jenkins was trying to rent rooms while I was there. She offered her services in helping to organize Columbus again. She has not heard from any of the Preservation or advancement groups, but continues to get mail from Marion Allen (Marilyn) of Salt Lake.

b2  
b7D

[REDACTED]

"After my conversations with these three people I do not believe there is a camelia group, but that the white circle is attempting to organize in the state. The Klan is disbanded there, and the pro-southern group is dead. The National Protective and Preservation groups are known but not active. The Patrick Henry group is Mrs. Jenkins. The white circle in Columbus is Parson Jack even though he denies it, and Mrs. Ed. Alenbaugh is the organizer living in Macon.

---

There is no group having any active meetings, and most business is handled through the mail."

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

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**CHANGED TO**  
105-10101-19

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C

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-28645)

DATE: October 15, 1954

FROM : *Q.P.* SAC, Miami (105-677)SUBJECT: *HO* PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - XALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdhRe Miami letter to the Director June 29, 1954, and  
Bulet to Miami July 13, 1954.

*W* Referenced Miami letter requested the Bureau to  
~~designate an Office of Origin for the above-captioned in-~~  
 vestigation. Referenced Bulet deferred naming an Office of  
 Origin pending the outcome of a meeting of the PATRICK HENRY  
 ORGANIZATION held in Columbus, Georgia, July 10, 1954. Reports  
 of this meeting were forwarded to the Bureau by Miami letter  
 dated August 3, 1954, captioned "PRO-SOUTHERNERS, IS-X", and  
 by Miami letter dated August 24, 1954, captioned "SOUTHERN  
 KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, aka, AMERICAN CONFEDERATE ARM,  
 IS-X", (Bufile 100-7801).

At the meeting of July 10, 1954, in Columbus, Georgia,  
 Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS urged that all organizations represented  
 at the meeting should be chartered by the PATRICK HENRY  
 ASSOCIATION so they could work more effectively. However, the  
 representatives from the various organizations decided to  
 continue their organizations as they now exist, but to appoint  
 a committee of the heads of each organization which would meet  
 from time to time to coordinate the work of the various outfits.

It should be noted that prior to this meeting the  
 PRO-SOUTHERNERS had already accepted a charter from the PATRICK  
 HENRY ASSOCIATION. There has been no information received by  
 the Miami Office that would indicate that the PATRICK HENRY  
 ASSOCIATION has any control over the PRO-SOUTHERNERS, other  
 than having issued this charter. This organization was formed  
 by M. B. *SHERRILL* of Fort Pierce, Florida, and from the in-  
 formation available appears to operate solely for the purpose  
 of distributing literature and to raise funds for this purpose  
 by membership fees and contributions.

*OK* UACB within the next three weeks, a report will be  
 prepared on this organization designating the Miami Office as  
 Origin.

MMJ:lc  
REGISTERED MAIL

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EX - 107



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 07-22-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sgh

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: November 19, 1954

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (100-0-5232a)

SUBJECT: PRO-SOUTHERNERS

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Board Chairman;

M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager

INTERNAL SECURITY - X

b6  
b7c

On November 18, 1954, Mr. CARL HANSSON, Chief of Police, Dallas, made available photostatic copies of correspondence dated October 22, 1954, postmarked Memphis, Tennessee, addressed to Mr. [redacted] Dallas, Texas, bearing the return address of "The Political Reporter, 3601 S. Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tenn." over the signature of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE; and two letters dated November 10, 1954, addressed to Mr. [redacted] Dallas, Texas, dated at Fort Pierce, Florida, bearing the return address of P. O. Box 1071, over the signature of M. B. SHERRILL.

These letters were directed actually to boys of high school age here in Dallas and, in effect, encouraged the addressees to stimulate the organization of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan, a white supremacy group.

Apparently an ad had been placed in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram on Sunday, June 27, 1954, as follows: "White people of America. If you believe in and want to keep white supremacy, segregation and our American way of life, write Pro-Southerners, P. O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

Apparently, in response to this ad, [redacted] and [redacted] communicated with SHERRILL, and the enclosed letters, which are being made available to the Miami Office for information purposes, were in response to their inquiries.

Chief HANSSON advised that the father of [redacted] opened the incoming letters of November 10, 1954, addressed to his son, without his son's knowledge as he became alarmed over the general appearance of the incoming communications and was most anxious to learn of their content.

The Dallas indices reflect no previous information concerning Pro-Southerners, HARRY WILLIAM PYLE or M. B. SHERRILL.

Apparently [redacted] and [redacted] attend the [redacted] High School in Dallas.

WAM:cg

2cc - Miami (Encs. 3) (info)

2cc - Memphis (info)

RECORDED-92

INDEXED-92

EX-103

12 NOV 22 1954

66 DEC 1 1954

DL 100-9-5232a

The above is being furnished to the Bureau, Miami and Memphis for information, and no further action will be taken by Dallas at this time.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JAN 4 1955</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/17, 27; 6/7, 9; 14, 17, 18, 21, 22; 23; 7/14, 19, 21; 8/10, 16; 9/8, 27; 10/6, 11, 18; 11/2; 3, 16, 18, 22, 30/ 12/4, 14, 21, 27/54	REPORT MADE BY <b>azm SA MELVIN MC RAE JETT</b>
TITLE <b>PRO-SOUTHERNERS</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>The Pro-Southerners was organized in 5/54 by M. B. SHERRILL to replace the White Circle League of America in Florida. It was subsequently chartered by the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., as a unit of that organization. The Pro-Southerners advocate maintenance of the segregated way of life in the South, for the repeal of the 16th Amendment, to outlaw the NAACP and the Anti-Deformation League. It is opposed to Northern interference in the racial questions in the South and contends that the race issue is a part of the Communist conspiracy to take over the South. M. B. SHERRILL, the Secretary and Manager, and for all intents and purposes, the head of the Pro-Southerners, was appointed Grand Titan of the Association of Florida Klans in 7/54 by WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, Grand Dragon and founder of this organization. Since that time SHERRILL has been using the Pro-Southerners as a paper organization for the purpose of distributing white supremacy and Anti-Jewish propaganda. The Pro-Southerners is also being used as a front organization for the Association of Florida Klans and as an organization from which trusted members can be selected for full Klan membership.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>COPIES IN FILE</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>105-128645-11</b> <b>JAN 6 1955</b> <b>RECORDED - 79</b> <b>INDEXED - 78</b> <b>FILED</b>	

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**66 FEB 1 1955**  
**53 JAN 24 1955**  
**FEB 14 1955**  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MM 105-677

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1 St. Louis (Info)(RM)  
4 Miami (105-677)

MM 105-677

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. ORGANIZATION . . . . .	4
<del>II. CHARTER OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS . . . . .</del>	<del>6</del>
III. OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS	7
IV. HEADQUARTERS . . . . .	10
V. OFFICERS . . . . .	10
VI. MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS . . . . .	12
VII. PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTED BY THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS . . . . .	14
VIII. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS AND THE KU KLUX KLAN . . . . .	22
IX. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS AND THE NATIONAL PATRICK HENRY ORGANIZATION . . . . .	34

MM 105-677

DETAILS

This investigation is predicated upon information supplied by Miami informant T-1, of known reliability, to the effect that M. B. ~~SHERRILL~~ of Ft. Pierce, Florida, was <sup>Texas</sup> forming an organization known as the Pro-Southerners to replace the ~~White Circle League of America~~ in Florida. It should be noted that the White Circle League of America was chartered in the State of Illinois on November 9, 1949, for the purpose of education as to customs, civic and social standards, and charitable purposes among its members; the maintenance of schools thereof, and the dissemination of information and literature appertaining thereto and to safeguard the property of its members, and tax research therein. The White Circle League of America was formed by JOSEPH BEAUHARNAIS, who was found guilty of circulating literature tending to defame a race in Chicago Municipal Court in 1950. The state charter of the White Circle League of America was revoked on June 29, 1950, on grounds that the literature of the League was "highly inflammable and would cause conflict among the races."

I. ORGANIZATION

On May 17, 1954, T-1, of known reliability, advised that M. B. ~~SHERRILL~~ was no longer distributing literature issued by the White Circle League of America, as he was unable to get along with the National Organization of the White Circle League. Informant said that ~~SHERRILL~~ had started to organize an organization of his own to be known as the Pro-Southerners. ~~SHERRILL~~ stated that he would like to organize and recruit membership for this new organization throughout the southeastern states and form the membership into individual chapters under the name of the Pro-Southerners.

Informant advised that ~~SHERRILL~~ had stated that when he, ~~SHERRILL~~, was 17 years old and a native of Texas, he had joined the Vigilantes, but that when the Ku Klux Klan was formed in Texas, the Texas Vigilantes were

MM 105-677

transferred en masse to the Ku Klux Klan. Informant advised that SHERRILL explained that it was his plan to re-form the Klan in Florida under the new name of the Pro-Southerners and to dispense with public meetings and public parades.

T-1 also advised that from conversation with SHERRILL, he gained the impression that the co-partner of SHERRILL in this venture was a man identified as HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, of Memphis, Tennessee, and that he was also in close contact with WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN of Tampa, Florida, who organized the Association of Florida Klans during the summer of 1953. Informant also advised that SHERRILL had indicated that he had been in contact with sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers, and highway patrolmen throughout the State of Florida that were interested in forming such an organization. Informant stated that SHERRILL had also advised that there would be no robes or masks in this organization, but that the membership would remain secret.

On June 17, 1954, Miami informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that on a recent visit with M. B. SHERRILL, Ft. Pierce, Florida, he learned that SHERRILL had decided to break connections from the White Circle League of America and start a southern organization to be known as the Pro-Southerners. Informant advised that as of June, 1954, SHERRILL was "just in the midst" of getting the first mailing of propaganda on this organization in the mails. SHERRILL claimed to be in contact with numerous people throughout the United States that were interested in similar objectives and said that the people all over the South want a southern organization to maintain segregation in the South.

SHERRILL exhibited to informant a letter from J. E. RICHARDSON, 417 Medical Arts Building, Shreveport, Louisiana, who was described by informant as apparently an old friend of SHERRILL's and a Klan member, who encouraged SHERRILL in his efforts and assured him he would line up a good friend of his to take on the organization work around Shreveport, Louisiana.

MM 105-677

Informant advised that it was SHERRILL's plan to "talk soft now and build up strength to act hard later." He advised that it was also SHERRILL's plan at the present time to admit anyone to membership to this organization, but not to tell them any of its secrets. According to informant, he would later screen the membership and pick out an "honest to God" group of members who could be depended upon to "run all the niggers and Jews out of the South." Informant said it was his plan to accomplish this by refusing jobs to the "niggers" and to stop trading with the "Jews".

According to informant, the financial venture of attempting to form the White Circle League of America in the South had been a failure and SHERRILL had not received sufficient money to cover his expenses, but believes that the Pro-Southerners organization will bring in the money.

## II. CHARTER OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On June 7, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL had received a letter from Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, 101 Albion Drive, Columbus, Georgia, who is the Secretary of the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., in which she had agreed to send SHERRILL a charter issued by the National Patrick Henry Organization, under which he could operate his new organization, known as the Pro-Southerners.

On June 18, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had stated that he had received his new charter from the National Patrick Henry Organization and that now he had a political action organization. He stated that the charter now gave them all of their many parts of the organization in one workable piece, and that "we" can now go onto complete victory for the white people.

On the same date informant advised that SHERRILL had refused to exhibit this charter to anyone as he did not believe that it should be used to convince prospective members that they should join such an organization.



MM 105-677

On June 22, 1954, informant advised that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, previously referred to as a co-partner of SHERRILL in the formation of the Pro-Southerners, had stated that the Patrick Henry Organization had ~~issued a~~ charter to SHERRILL and the Pro-Southerners. PYLE explained that the Patrick Henry Organization had no printed charters or charter forms so a special typed copy was made up and signed by Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Secretary of the organization, and by him, PYLE, as Acting President. Inasmuch as at that time the Patrick Henry Organization had no President, PYLE stated that he, as Vice-President, had been acting as President and would continue to do so until the July 10 convention of the Patrick Henry Organization, when officers would be elected.

PYLE stated that this charter that was issued to SHERRILL and the Pro-Southerners gives him full authority to act as a special unit of the Patrick Henry Organization and that it covers the entire nation as his to organize under the name of the Pro-Southerners. PYLE stated that this was done by the Patrick Henry Organization as that organization had the highest respect for SHERRILL and his ability to organize, and above all, his loyalty and willingness to cooperate with real patriots. PYLE further assured informant that SHERRILL and all those who join in with the Patrick Henry's would get the closest cooperation from all of the officers from that organization and that it was understood that those who would take their places would respect this charter to the limit.

### III: OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On May 17, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL, the Secretary-Manager of the Pro-Southerners, was distributing mimeographed copies of an open letter to the people in the South. This letter stated that the white people of the South must be either for or against segregation, that no one could "sit on the fence," and that those for

MM 105-677

it must organize and make their will recognized. The letter pointed out that it was only by doing this that they could avert a racial disturbance.

The letter stated that only by organizing could they hope to survive. The letter urged that they organize under the Pro-Southerners and see that only true southern men are elected to public office, to school boards, to state offices, and to United States Congress. The letter urged that they "put a stop to nine black-robed men who are our servants, not our lawmakers, making laws that force racial mixing against our will."

Another mimeographed letter under the same caption, "Dear Fellow Southerners," pointed out that the South does not force its segregation ideas on the "Yankees" and that the North should respect the rights of the South to control their own racial questions. The letter alleged that in the South, both races had mutual respect for the other until "the Democratic Party was captured by the Communists, radicals, and liberals, all of the North." It further alleged this was STALIN's plan to create a revolution in the South and create a black democracy. The letter further pointed out that the only hope of the South was by organizing under the southern leadership and demanding that the South be left alone to solve their own problems.

Informant also advised that SHERRELL was distributing a mimeographed sheet captioned, "The Pro-Southerners and What They Stand For." This mimeographed sheet listed the Pro-Southerners as believing that only a southern organization, led by southerners, could solve the racial problems of the South. They further believe that the Democratic Party should defend the South on its racial problems and, failing to do this, another political party should be formed. It stated that the Southern Democrats were leaning too far towards creeping Communism and heeding the racial minorities.

The sheet also alleged that the Pro-Southerners were absolutely against all forms of Marxianism and realized

MM 105-677

that the Negro question is a part of the Communist conspiracy. It further stated that the Pro-Southerners stand for the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment as they did not want their tax money wasted on "One Worldism, the United Nations and foreign wars."

It further stated that the Pro-Southerners want the southern states to outlaw the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Anti-Defamation League. It further alleged that the Pro-Southerners wanted the same right to organize as was granted to the NAACP and the ADL, and to be free from Congressional investigations and from being classified as subversive, as they wanted to protect the white man's rights in the South. It further alleged that already a "Yankee Congressman" HAROLD VELDE was branding all southerners who want to retain segregation as racists, bigots, and hate mongers. This letter also stated that the Pro-Southerners were opposed to southern white youth being forced to join mixed units in the armed forces and that the Pro-Southerners must call upon Congressmen and Senators to have laws enacted that will give the white youth the right to select an all white unit.

On June 18, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had stated that the Pro-Southerners would be an organization that would be a power in politics and would send their own men and women to fill state and Federal offices "with the fear of God in them and a prayer on their lips to be able and worthy of the white people who sent them to do the job of housecleaning that has to be done before the South and America can be free of the enemies that now have control of all state and Federal Governments in America." He further stated that SHERRILL advised that "the last three presidents have done a job for the enemies of America and EISENHOWER just completed the job he was elected for--the white people have experienced nothing to what they will--beginning shortly and getting worse as time passes--unless they organize for their own defense." SHERRILL further stated that "we will have the strongest organization on earth when the people wake up and see that they must take sides and join us to save themselves."

MM 105-677

On the same date, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had made the statement that the Pro-Southerners would fight to the last man before they would let a single "nigger" go into our schools, churches, hotels, motels, and restaurants. SHERRILL also stated that the white people should realize what they are up against and should help stop it before it gets "too big for us to stop without bloodshed and revolution in the United States, or for each southern or southwestern state seceding the Union, which we will gladly do if we have to--that would stop all wars, all income tax, all other Federal taxes, all Federal supervision and meddling and we, in the South and Southwest--24 states in all who have said they would secede if necessary to put a stop to Federal meddling in our business."

Informant advised that from the literature that he had received from SHERRILL and from personal contact with him, it was clear to him that the aims and objectives of the Pro-Southerners were similar to those advocated by the Ku Klux Klan in that SHERRILL, in expressing the views of the Pro-Southerners, was extremely anti-Negro, anti-Jew, and advocated full states rights without Federal intervention.

#### IV. HEADQUARTERS

On May 17, 1954, T-1 advised that the headquarters of the Pro-Southerners was listed at Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida, which is the address of M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary and Manager.

#### V. OFFICERS

On May 17, 1954, T-1 identified M. B. SHERRILL as the Secretary and Manager of the Pro-Southerners. He also advised that he had gained the impression that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, publisher of "The Political Reporter", was an official of this organization and a co-partner of SHERRILL's in its formation.

MM 105-677

On June 21, 1954, Miami informant T-3, of known reliability, made available a letterhead of the Pro-Southerners that listed the following officers of that organization:

ADVISORY BOARD

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Board Chairman.  
M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary, Manager

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Tennessee  
ROBERT PATTERSON, Mississippi  
ALTON THATCHER, Missouri  
BOB CURRIE, Nevada  
J. H. BICKLEY, South Carolina  
CHARLES FITZGERALD, Texas  
F. C. SAMMONS, West Virginia  
Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Georgia  
Mrs. M. MCANAN, Arizona  
JOHN H. MONK, Virginia  
E. G. SKAGGS, MD, Kentucky  
FLETCHER NELSON, Louisiana  
H. M. SHERRILL, Alabama  
L. F. HAVLIN, Oklahoma  
W. J. GRIFFIN, Florida  
HUBERT H. HEATH, New Mexico  
GEORGE C. BECKLEY, Maryland  
R. E. GRIFFITH, Oklahoma  
P. C. WYATT, North Carolina  
L. W. LEWIS, Arkansas

On August 6, 1954, T-1 supplied the addresses for certain members of the Advisory Board as secured by him from publication of "The Political Reporter":

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, 3601 S. Lloyd Circle,  
Memphis, Tennessee  
ROBERT PATTERSON, Box 106, Holly Ridge, Miss.  
ALTON THATCHER, Box 12, Pascola, Missouri  
BOB CURRIE, P.O. Box 123, Carson City, Nevada  
J. H. BICKLEY, 416 Withaloochie, Marion, S.C.

MM 105-677

~~FORREST C. SAMMONS~~, 127 Woodland Road, Huntington,  
West Virginia  
Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, 101 Albion Drive, Columbus,  
Georgia  
Mrs. M. CONAN, 1146 E. Fellmore, Phoenix, Arizona  
JOHN H. MONK, P.O. Box 831, Portsmouth, Virginia  
HUBERT H. HEATH, Box 108, Anthony, New Mexico  
WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, Stovall Professional Building,  
Tampa, Florida

Informant advised that he had been unable to determine more specific addresses of the other members listed on the Advisory Board of instant organization.

#### VI. MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

On May 17, 1954, T-1 advised that he had learned from M. B. SHERRILL that membership fee in the Pro-Southerners would be \$2 per year, plus an additional \$2 for a subscription to "The Political Reporter" the publication which had been adopted by SHERRILL as the official paper for the Pro-Southerners.

Informant also made available an application for membership in the Pro-Southerners, which had been given to him by SHERRILL. This application stated that the applicant had read and understood the purpose of the Pro-Southerners, who were working to preserve "our Southern segregated way of life." It further pledged that if accepted, the applicant would help in organizing and work with and help local and headquarters to that end that "we" may retain our white citizens' rights on segregation. This blank had a space for the name, address, city and state of the applicant, bore the notation, "I enclose \$2 for membership dues. I want to keep informed so send me 'The Political Reporter' for next year, \$2 enclosed for my subscription--the Pro-Southerners newspaper, read it." This blank carried the further notation, "Write M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

MM 105-677

Informant also made available the membership card issued by the Pro-Southerners, which describes the organization as the white man's organization of the Southland to preserve our Southern segregated way of life. This card provided space for the name and address of the member and identified SHERRILL as the Secretary-Manager of the organization, listing his address the same as previously indicated.

On July 21, 1954, informant advised that M. B. SHERRILL stated that the Pro-Southerners would take in any person and would be operated strictly within the law, but from the membership of the Pro-Southerners, selected members would be chosen for membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

On September 20, 1954, T-2 advised that M. B. SHERRILL did not state how many members had joined the Pro-Southerners, but that he did indicate that he had not taken in enough in membership fees to cover the expense of mailing 38,000 pieces of first class mail. He did state, however, that his largest group of members was located in Texas.

On September 27, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL who had been appointed the Grand Titan of the Association of Florida Klans, is now actively engaged in attempting to organize units of this organization in the southern portion of Florida and that it is informant's opinion that the Pro-Southerners is now only a "paper" organization used by SHERRILL as a mailing list for the distribution of white supremacy and anti-Jewish propaganda.

On October 18, 1954, this informant advised that SHERRILL claimed that the Pro-Southerners were holding meetings in various parts of Florida, but that he did not identify any of the recent meetings alleged to have been held, and that it was still his belief that there were no active chapters of the Pro-Southerners as such within the State of Florida. Informant stated that it was his opinion that the Pro-Southerners is an organization that was formed by SHERRILL for the sole purpose of acquiring

MM 105-677

financial aid to cover expense of distribution of propaganda to people interested in the segregation issue. He also stated that it was his opinion that from the list of memberships acquired by SHERRILL, selected persons would be chosen for membership in the Association of Florida Klans.

#### VII. PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTED BY THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On May 17, 1954, T-1 made available a set of four pieces of mimeographed material supplied by M. B. SHERRILL to be used in soliciting members to the Pro-Southerners.

The first piece marked Item 1, was an open letter captioned, "Dear Fellow Southerners." It was a tirade against "the Northern Communists, so-called liberals, do-gooders, and misled Yankees" interfering in the southern racial problems. It also condemned the FEPC and the non-segregated plans of the Armed Forces. It stated that these freedoms were taken away by Executive Orders mainly, placing the responsibility on the last three presidents, or by the United States Supreme Court, which was described as a "Nine man body of super lawmakers that were never granted that power by the Constitution." There was also a charge that Congressman HAROLD VELDE was concentrating his efforts against the "far rightist", which included the loyal southern people.

Item 2 of this group was also a mimeographed sheet captioned "The Pro-Southerners--What They Stand For" which has previously been referred to in this report. This mimeographed sheet also carried a recommendation for "The Political Reporter" as the best publication to inform the membership of the Pro-Southerners. It referred to the Editor of "The Political Reporter", HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, as a Pro-Southerner "to the core."

Item 3 of this set of papers was a reprint of an article allegedly appearing in the "Waco Citizen" relating to the lifting of segregation rule at the Veterans



MM 105-677

Hospital at Waco. On the reverse side of this reprint was the mimeographed note over the typewritten name of M. B. SHERRILL, which stated that what is mentioned on the reverse side of that leaflet would never have happened if the white citizens had listened to M. B. SHERRILL. It also stated that race mixing in southern schools, the FEPC, and other ~~Communistic revolutionary moves can be avoided if they~~ would heed SHERRILL's advice. It also solicited correspondence with M. B. SHERRILL for answers to these and other problems concerning the South.

The fourth and last piece of this set of propaganda was captioned "From M. B. SHERRILL." It was a tirade against the cowardice of the white southerners in standing idly by and allowing the Supreme Court and the Federal Government to force non-segregation in public schools and FEPC regulations in the South. It pointed out that most of the southerners were waiting for their political representatives to do something about it, but never realizing that these representatives recognized organized minorities rather than their constituents. It stated that this was the "old carpetbaggers back forcing the white race in the Southland to accept the Negro as a social equal and perhaps as his master." All the items called for the organizing of the white race under the banner of M. B. SHERRILL as head of the Pro-Southerners.

Informant also made available on the same date a mimeographed reproduction of Executive Order Number 10479, establishing the Government Contract Committee, as copied verbatim by HORACE SHERMAN MILLER. In addition to this Executive Order were also the comments allegedly attributed to HORACE SHERMAN MILLER that this Executive Order trampled upon the sovereignty of every state as it violated state rights, state and local statutes, discriminates against all United States born citizens, and violates the Constitution of the United States. It further alleged that the Executive Order favors minority groups at the expense of the United States birthed citizenry. This pamphlet also solicited subscriptions to "The Political Reporter" and stated for free copies of the above Executive Order, write HORACE SHERMAN MILLER, 1401 North 13th Street, Waco, Texas.

MM 105-677

Informant advised that this and similar propaganda was being mailed by SHERRILL to persons all over the United States.

On June 7, 1954, T-1 made available another series of mimeographed material prepared by M. B. SHERRILL that was being distributed to members of the Pro-Southerners. Among this material was a letter captioned "Dear Fellow Southerners" which was a further tirade against northern interference with the racial problems of the South. It accused the Democratic Party of being captured by the Communists, radicals and liberals, and then stirred up racial distrust and created revolutionary state of mind in the "niggers", in furtherance of STALIN's plan to create revolution in the South.

It further condemned the United States Supreme Court as a "nine man body of super lawmakers." It alleged that the only hope of the South was to organize and prevent the Negro of the South from being "brain washed by the Yankee troublemakers and Communists." It stated that by retaining segregation, the South could be assured of safety for the white people and only by segregation.

A second item in this group was a mimeographed letter captioned "The Pro-Southerners an All Southern Led Organization for Southerners." It, too, solicited membership in the Pro-Southerners and criticized the Supreme Court and the Federal Government for interfering in the racial problems in the South. It urged that the problem not be left to the politicians as some had already admitted defeat and should be replaced with sound thinking men. It solicited the people to write SHERRILL for information and help in organizing local groups of the Pro-Southerners. On the reverse side of this paper was a mimeographed copy of what purported to be a report that would be required of all employers in the event that the FEPC were passed.

Another piece of this propaganda was a mimeographed sheet purporting to be the front copy of the March 1, 1954, issue of "The Political Reporter". This

MM 105-677

carried an article entitled "White Labor in America Gets a Slam in the Teeth." It announced that President EISENHOWER had appointed J. W. WILKINS, a Chicago, Illinois, "nigger" and lawyer, to the post of Assistant Secretary of Labor. Included also on this page was a cartoon representing a Negro stating, "Yo' getting betta, Brudder Ike" and then with a character identified as "Ike" saying "Sho am." On the reverse side of this sheet were several anti-Negro articles.

Another mimeographed sheet that was included with these papers carried an item entitled "Why Should White Americans Stand Still." This was a continuation of a tirade against the Negro and lauded the Ku Klux Klan for having reestablished white supremacy following the Civil War. The article quoted the author BOB CURRIE, P.O. Box 123, Carson City, as stating that he would personally like to see the Ku Klux Klan ride again in every city, town, and hamlet in America and would also like to see a new political party established dedicated to white supremacy. The reverse side of this sheet carried additional quotations from various people regarding the race problem. It was captioned "Pointed Paragraphs from Those Who Know" and quoted anti-Negro remarks made by Miss MARILYN R. ALLEN, author of "Alien Minorities and Mongrelization", Salt Lake City, Utah; ALTON THATCHER, Pascola, Missouri; BOB CURRIE, Carson City, Nevada; J. H. RICKLEY, Marion, South Carolina; FRANCIS M. McHALE, Jacksonville, Florida; Dr. T. R. MONTGOMERY, Memphis, Tennessee; HORACE SHERMAN MILLER, Waco, Texas; Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Columbus, Georgia; HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Memphis, Tennessee, and M. B. SHERRILL, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Informant also made available along with this material, a printed form of a poem entitled "The White Man's Burden" by OLIVER WILSON. *WU LOC*

On June 9, 1954, Miami informant T-4, of known reliability, made available copies of material he had received from M. B. SHERRILL relating to the Pro-Southerners. This material contained mimeographed

MM 105-677

literature previously referred to captioned "Why Should Americans Stand Still," copy of FEPC report, reprint from the "Waco Citizen", "The Pro-Southerners--What they Stand For" and the open letter captioned "Dear Fellow Southerners".

In addition thereto informant made available a mimeographed leaflet captioned "Democracy Forum (HSM-2)". This leaflet stated that on March 22, 1929, LEON TROTSKY was refused political asylum in Germany, but now he would be welcome there. It set forth that the Government of West Germany has invited Anti-Deformation League bigwigs to investigate the status of Civil Service. It stated that no doubt these Jewish HITLERS will put all white Aryan citizens in concentration camps. It stated that the Deep South and Deep West are afraid of being enslaved by the Africans and the Asians.

It stated that Republicans and Democrats, politically speaking, are all members of their Democracy politics. It accused the politicians of enacting laws that take away more and more from the citizens of the United States and build up prosperity for the "wandering Jew". This leaflet bore the typewritten name of HORACE SHERMAN MILLER, 1401 13th Street, Waco, Texas, and the stamped imprint of M. B. SHERRILL, P.O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

On June 21, 1954, T-1 made available a mimeographed letter captioned "From the Desk of M. B. SHERRILL, Pro-Southerners", which accused the press of brain washing the public regarding Communism and the mixing of the races in the South. It solicited the organizing of the white people of the South into one organization to fight the present issues of the South, mostly the segregation problem. It stated that if you were for segregation, you belonged to the Pro-Southerners, and if you were against it, you should join the NAACP or the Anti-Deformation League. It further pointed out that refusal to take a stand supported the "Red plan", which is to force non-segregation upon the South.

MM 105-677

It further alleged that already Congressman MULTER, "a New York Jew," was demanding that all persons classed as bigots (meaning those who won't accept mixing) should have the rights of the mails denied to them. It further alleged that a movement was on foot to have all such people termed subversive. It stated that every effort was being made to strangle the white southern people and keep them from defending their constitutional rights. It stated that now the time has come to be counted in the South and that the South has little time in which to defend its constitutional rights.

On July 19, 1954, T-1 made available a letter mimeographed on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners, captioned "Dear Southerner". This letter was over the typewritten name of M. B. SHERRILL and alleged that there was a vast amount of white people who had been brain washed to let the Negroes, the race mixers, and the Communists kick them in the teeth and not resent it. It alleged that they do not object to the Supreme Court making illegal laws to force race mixing, nor do they object to the NAACP demanding employers hire Negro labor even if they lack the skill to earn their way. The letter was another solicitation for membership in the Pro-Southerners.

On the reverse side was mimeographed statistics allegedly taken from FBI records relating to crime statistics indicating the large percentage of Negroes arrested for various type crimes. It set forth that the Negro population of approximately ten per cent of the United States would create an appalling condition that the white children would face if they are forced to attend schools, churches, or other public places where race mixing would prevail. It further set forth that the whites, whose moral conduct is far above the Negro race, could not mix with an almost savage race and not become contaminated to some extent.

On July 21, 1954, T-1 made available a legal size mimeographed sheet captioned "The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, 1942 Edition." This encyclopedia was

MM 105-677

allegedly compiled in accordance with the provisions of the United States Work Projects Administration, Project No. 465-97-39. This mimeographed sheet quoted allegedly from the above captioned encyclopedia, page 479, which gave a history of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, setting forth investigation of the Klan by the Dies Committee. Following the excerpts were comments indicating that the criticism of the Klan was biased and that the investigation conducted by the Dies Committee was not complete, but in many instances depended on indirect testimony covering the period up to 1939. This analysis of the article bore the typewritten name of HORACE SHERMAN MILLER, Waco, Texas. Informant advised that he had received this mimeographed sheet from M. B. SHERRILL, Pro-Southerners.

On August 16, 1954, T-1 made available a mimeographed leaflet advertising "The Political Reporter" which he had received from M. B. SHERRILL. On the reverse side of this was a reprint of a poem from Page 155 of "Alien Minorities and Mongrelization" by MARILYN R. ALLEN, entitled "Ride Clansman Ride!". This poem lauded the formation of the Ku Klux Klan to save the South and urged that the Klansmen ride again to redeem the manhood of the race.

On August 16, 1954, T-1 advised that he had received information from SHERRILL that SHERRILL had dispatched over 4,873 letters disseminating the above type propaganda throughout the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia. Informant stated that SHERRILL claimed that the Pro-Southerners was not a money-making scheme, but was created to wake up and educate the white people to the Negro danger so that they could sign and mail letters and petitions to State and Federal officials that would be furnished them by the Pro-Southerners organization.

On September 8, 1954, T-1 made available a copy of the August, 1954, issue of "The American Nationalist" which he had received from M. B. SHERRILL. This issue of "The American Nationalist" was a four-page lithographed tabloid, published by "The American Nationalist", Box 301 Inglewood, California, by FRANK L. Britton.

MM 105-677

L. BRITTON, Editor. The tabloid was devoted exclusively to anti-Negro and anti-Jewish propaganda, including photographs of alleged race mixing in Los Angeles, California, among the student body of the tax supported Los Angeles City College.

Informant also made available a reprint of a tract published by "The American Nationalist" which was also devoted to mongrelization issues. This tract set forth pictures alleging interracial friendship between the races, interracial marriage, interracial love, interracial society, and interracial movies. This tract also bore the rubber stamp of the Pro-Southerners, P.O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

On September 8, 1954, T-1 also made available a printed petition captioned "Declaration of Independence from the United Nations" which he had received from SHERRILL. This petition carried the following quotation above the space provided for the signers thereof: "I hereby declare my independence of the United Nations and all its agents and agencies. I am here and now out of it. I will never recognize its authorities; never bow to its power. I will never serve under its flag or any flag but Old Glory. I hold that any American citizen who gives allegiance to the United Nations is a traitor to this sovereign republic, whose authority is and must remain supreme and undivided over all things American. I urge all of my fellow Americans to show their loyalty to the Constitution of the United States by joining me in this declaration."

This petition carries the notation, "This petition printed by Williams Publications, Box 868, Santa Ana, California." On the reverse side of this was the stamped impression, "Pro-Southerners, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

On September 8, 1954, T-1 made available a pamphlet consisting of eight printed pages entitled "Abolish the United Nations". This pamphlet set forth various reasons why the United Nations should be abolished

MM 105-677

and summarized the materials set forth therein as follows:  
"They have so exploited the knaves and the fools among our statesmen that in effect, they have made successful a complete act of treason against the Constitution, the flag, the armed forces, our tradition, our religion, our racial integrity, our national and state sovereignty, our independence and our Christian civilization."

VIII. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
AND THE KU KLUX KLAN

On May 27, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL, the Secretary-Manager of the Pro-Southerners, was a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, having first joined when he was a resident of the State of Texas and only 17 years of age. Informant advised that SHERRILL continually made reference to his previous Klan activities and stated that he had had a falling out with BILL HENDRIX when they were both members of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Informant advised that SHERRILL had told him during May, 1954, to forget about BILL HENDRIX, AL DAVIS, and CHARLIE PARKER, all former members of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, as they had helped HENDRIX organize the Negro Klan in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. During his comments, SHERRILL stated he had received information from headquarters to the effect that these men were not recognized as Klansmen by anyone. Informant interpreted SHERRILL's remark as to "headquarters" as indicating that SHERRILL was under the direct control of a Klan organization. He stated that at the same time SHERRILL made the remark that, "We have the only Klan organization in Florida. We are proud of the success we have made in the past and the future success we will make by preaching what we practice." SHERRILL also told informant that BILL HENDRIX was a "liar" when he publicly announced in the "Miami Herald" that there was no Klan in the State of Florida.



MM 105-677

Informant advised also that it was SHERRILL's plan to re-form the Klan under the new name and to dispense with public meetings and raids. He also had indicated to informant that he had received a mailing list of former Klan members from WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, Tampa, Florida, which would be used to solicit members for the Pro-Southerners.

On May 27, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had been in communication with J. B. DAVIS, 404 West Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, whom he indicated was a former member of the Klan. SHERRILL also indicated that his present plans were to organize as quickly and as safely as possible. Fla.

On June 7, 1954, SHERRILL advised informant that "we" would work underground until the time was ripe for "us" to come to light. He stated that when the membership was big enough, they would let themselves be known. He also stated that his organization would work within the law so as not to attract attention to the organization.

On June 18, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL, who had been appointed Grand Titan of the Southern Portion of Florida, by WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, organizer of the Association of Florida Klans, July, 1953, indicated that the Pro-Southerners would be used to rally the public around the segregation issue and from the ranks of this organization, select persons would be invited to become members of the Klan.

On June 18, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL stated that he had not heard from WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN since the previous Saturday night, but that he understood that he was out of the state for a few days. He also advised informant that GRIFFIN would not give the Pro-Southerners many names, if any, to solicit membership in the Pro-Southerners as it would take the cream from the "father" organization, which he, GRIFFIN, was welding together. On this occasion, SHERRILL also indicated to informant that the Pro-Southerners could not be picking here and there for members, but must have a majority of all white people to show their strength and that later this organization

MM 105-677

would be a power in politics and would send their own men and women to state and Federal offices.

On June 21, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL had assured him that WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN was a solid 100 per cent American, for segregation, white supremacy, and the white races. SHERRILL stated that GRIFFIN had no connections with BILL HENDRIX and the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who had caused trouble in every state and county and had Jews working with him. SHERRILL also advised that GRIFFIN still would not supply any names of people to be solicited as members of the Pro-Southerners as he did not like the idea of giving the names of members of any organization to anyone although this matter would be discussed by the Grand Dragon at the next state meeting, which was scheduled for the first week in July. On this occasion, SHERRILL also advised informant that the Pro-Southerners wanted white men and women who believe in white supremacy, segregation, and a white Christian America, and all other whites can go over to the "niggers."

On June 21, 1954, T-3 made available a letter from SHERRILL to O. E. SMITH, on the reverse side of a NO LOC mimeographed sheet captioned "From the Desk of M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager, Pro-Southerners." This handwritten letter of SHERRILL's reads as follows:

"We need every white man and woman to work and spread the truth on segregation and white supremacy. Get every man or woman possible who believes as we do to send in or sign up names and address (mail addresses) with you--tell them that the time is short and we must win this time--to prevent revolution and bloodshed later--we are not going to take the decision of nine appointed Communists appointed by the traitor presidents to give this white country to the Jews and niggers. Write for more materials and work for the race of America--have everyone helping.

"Sincerely,

M. B. SHERRILL, P.O. Box 1071,  
Ft. Pierce, Florida"

MM 105-677

This letter is being retained in the files of the Miami Office.

On June 28, 1954, T-4 advised that WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN, the Grand Dragon of the Association of Florida Klans, was planning to give M. B. SHERRILL, of Ft. Pierce, Florida, an important post in the Association of Florida Klans and indicated that this position might possibly be Titan in Charge of Klan Activities on the southeast coast of Florida.

On July 21, 1954, T-1 advised that he had received information that GRIFFIN had appointed M. B. SHERRILL as Grand Titan of the southern part of Florida, covering the East Coast from St. Augustine to Key West, Florida.

On the same date, T-1 made available a mimeographed sheet, which was allegedly a reproduction of information contained in the "Universal Jewish Encyclopedia", which has previously been referred to in this report. This reproduction was devoted entirely to the history of the Klan and to subsequent congressional investigation as related in the "Universal Jewish Encyclopedia". In addition to this, there were comments made concerning this article by HORACE SHERMAN MILLER. This mimeographed sheet was distributed by SHERRILL as one of the pieces of propaganda disseminated by the Pro-Southerners.

On August 10, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had stated that any former member of the Klan could become affiliated with the Pro-Southerners by paying only quarterly dues of \$1.50, but that new members would be charged an initiation fee of \$5. On this occasion, informant advised that he was not positive that the remark made by SHERRILL related to the initiation of members into the Pro-Southerners or into the Association of Florida Klans. Informant advised that since SHERRILL had been appointed Grand Titan of the Association of Florida Klans, it is hard to distinguish which organization he refers to in conversation. Informant also advised that he is now of the opinion that since SHERRILL has been appointed to an

MM 105-677

official position in the Association of Florida Klans that the Pro-Southerners will become only a paper organization and the membership list used to disseminate propaganda of a white supremacy and anti-Jewish nature.

On September 27, 1954, T-1 advised that D. P. ARMSTRONG, a resident of Miami and a member of the Florida States Rights, Inc., had written a letter to M. B. SHERRILL of Ft. Pierce, Florida, inquiring as to the possibility of organizing a klavern of the Association of Florida Klans in the Miami area. Informant advised that the Florida States Rights, Inc., was an organization chartered on August 12, 1954, at Miami, Florida, for the purpose of protecting state rights and to oppose non-segregation in the public schools.

On November 2, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had stated that they were now getting the people together in other states and that this time would not be sold out but would merge together in one national strong organization. SHERRILL also stated that any Klan other than the Association of Florida Klans was a fake Klan as the real heads of the original Klan had met the previous week and had had an eyewitness who knew how they had been double crossed and how it was being done even now. SHERRILL pointed out that the Association of Florida Klans was the real original Klan for men and women to join who needed the advice and training supplied by the Klan.

On November 3, 1954, T-1 advised that SHERRILL had cautioned that they should "keep quiet about any national Klans", but answer any inquiries by saying, "We are it." He stated that no records would be kept and there could never be any trouble from names and records. Informant advised again that from conversation of SHERRILL, it was impossible to determine whether or not his references to "we" referred to the Pro-Southerners or to the Association of Florida Klans.

On November 16, 1954, T-1 made available a letter from M. B. SHERRILL, which was written on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners. This letter in part

MM 105-677

stated that the "old outfit" has become active and that the Jew and Communist controlled Atlanta bunch (Association of Georgia Klans under control of SAM ~~ROPER~~ and CHARLES ~~KLIEN~~) is on the run. The letter further stated that the new plan with the old organization will clean out the Communists and Jews and the "niggers" for all time to come. It stated that men were needed in every county in the United States.

The letter further stated that "we" had a nice meeting in Daytona Beach three weeks ago, where much constructive work is being done. It further stated that every white man is a prospect and that many who before could not become members could now join and if they failed to live up to the standards required, they would be expelled.

It also stated that young teenagers were now acceptable provided an older one vouches for them. In elaborating on the new plan, the letter stated that it covered every possible thought and condition and touches every person in America.

The letter continued, stating that history is now being made and that men participating in this movement will be heroes within two years as they will have helped to make plans become a reality and America will be saved for the white race. This letter is being retained in the files of the Miami Office.

On November 18, 1954, Miami informant T-5, of known reliability, made available a letter dated October 22, 1954, from HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Memphis, Tennessee, to Mr. [redacted], Dallas, Texas. Informant advised that this letter had apparently been written to [redacted] by PYLE after [redacted] had answered an ad which had been placed in the Fort Worth "Star Telegram" on Sunday, June 27, 1954, which read as follows: "White people of America, if you believe in and want to keep white supremacy, segregation and our American way of life, write Pro-Southerners, P.O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

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MM 105-677

This letter stated that "Brother" HORACE MILLER, of Waco, Texas, had sent [redacted]'s letter of the 19th to PYLE with the request that PYLE supply the information requested by [redacted]. The letter further stated that he hoped that the information furnished would encourage [redacted] to get into the mood to join and help "us" save this nation from the Negroes, Zionist-Communists.

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The entire letter was devoted to explanations to [redacted] giving details relating to the Knights of the Kuklos Klan, which it distinguished as a separate organization from the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Atlanta, Georgia. The letter stated that the Knights of the Kuklos Klan was from the original NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST Klan and that its plans, purposes, and initiations were based upon what took place before 1867 and during the reconstruction period. The letter stated that "we" do not accept Catholics; not because of their religious beliefs, but because "our" initiation work cannot be accepted by their church. It further stated that "we do not and will not fight white Catholics."

The letter explained that anyone over 18 years of age was eligible for membership, but that they preferred that the ones between 18 and 20 be above average in their "thinking". It further stated that later the group from 18 to 20 would be placed in a separate unit under the local Exalted Cyclops. It stated that the obligations that must be assumed could be determined from the enclosed pamphlet, setting forth the objectives of the Klan. In short, the letter stated that a person would have to take an oath to uphold the United States, its flag, and to protect the white or Aryan womanhood and children; also help retain white supremacy and to work to retain segregation, not just in the schools, but in all public and social gatherings.

The letter stated that the obligations also called for an oath that the applicant will fight against Communism and the many Red fronts. The letter explained that as to obligating oneself to observe the rules, laws, and edicts of the organization, that this was no more than

MM 105-677

was required by all organizations which receive pledges that its members will uphold their laws and regulations.

It further pointed out that these laws and regulations would not be made known until the applicant was initiated into the organization. The letter pointed out, however, that the enclosed material concerning the Kuklos Klan stipulated that members must stand for law and order, therefore, an applicant would not take an oath to uphold unlawful acts.

The letter further pointed out that as to the edicts, the organization depended upon its Grand Dragon and its local Exalted Cyclops to carry out the work and try to do all that was legally possible to retain white supremacy and upbuilding of the Klansman's opportunities. It stated it would be the member's duty to follow his instructions or edicts so as to make the local a success and doing so, promote the welfare of the Klansmen.

The letter stated that the Grand Dragon or his Exalted Cyclops will not order a member to go and beat up some female or male, who has been "caught in the wrong bed." It further stated that no member would be ordered to do any illegal act. On the contrary, it stated that he might ask a member to help and, more than likely, will demand that he help the law enforcement officials to keep order and peace in the community. It also pointed out that the member might be requested to help get Klansmen into public office or to get those who stood for Americanism into office.

In summing up the letter, PYLE stated as follows: "The Knights of the Kuklos Klan works to teach the value of the white race, help it to retain its rights, and to support all white rule and to retain segregation in all things and to stop Communism from taking over, and to do it all in a legal way."

This letter was on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners, which identified HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, the signer of the letter, as the Board Chairman of the Advisory

MM 105-677

Board of the Pro-Southerners. The envelope in which this letter was dispatched, bore the return address of the "Political Reporter", 3601 South Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tennessee.

T-5 also made available a letter written on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners, dated November 10, 1954, bearing the written signature of M. B. SHERRILL. This letter was addressed to Mr. [redacted], Dallas, Texas. The letter started off with the salutation, "Dear Brother American."

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The letter stated that SHERRILL had just received [redacted]'s letter about the city police taking a part for the Jews and the "niggers"--the Communist Party and the traitors of America. Following this was a tirade against the two city policemen referred to, alleging that they were controlled by the "niggers" and the Jews of America, who were the Communist Party in the United States. It alleged that the "niggers" and Jews would, after taking over the country, either shoot or put the white people in concentration camps, several of which it stated were already prepared for white American citizens who dared to stand up for their homes and their families.

The letter further stated that the last three wars have been fought for foreign powers under Jewish control, with the "niggers" back at the base of operation loading and unloading ships and working in the warehouses while "our best sons" were at the front being killed, wounded, or captured. It stated this was slowly taking the best young men while the Jews and "niggers" were protected to fight, murder, and rape the weaker ones left home. It stated that the few that were left at home that would come to the aid of their country, were threatened by the police and other elected and appointed officials while they, themselves, get no protection for the money paid in taxes, whereas the Jews and Negroes use the police to protect themselves.

It stated that the Jews and traitors who had been run out of every country in the world will be thrown



MM 105-677

out of America and that the white Americans who founded and fought and bled for its very life, will be again holding the flag of liberty and freedom and thanking God for the opportunity to have fought for their country and saved it from the traitors who would rape and murder and destroy the entire white race of the world.

T-5 also made available a letter over the signature of M. B. SHERRILL, written on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners, dated November 10, 1954, addressed to Mr. [REDACTED] Dallas, Texas. Above the name was typewritten this note: "Later in the night. After midnight and some thought."

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The letter opened with the statement that SHERRILL had received two letters from two other boys or men in Dallas, and had been looking them over. He stated that the young men had come through much better than the preachers and teachers that have been asking for information. He stated that to date only two preachers had come through and proven worthwhile and that neither of these were from Texas. The letter lamented the fact that at least one white preacher had not taken up the banner of white supremacy and segregation to preserve the American way of life in Texas.

It further stated that some college boys, whom he identified as Communists or dupes, had been sent to SHERRILL to get information on him and that he later learned that the information and literature he had given them was used and discussed in classes and that ways and means were discussed as to how to "shut me up." This letter stated that this was impossible unless "they killed me."

The letter further stated that every white man's organization that was a white man's organization was with them, but still they had traitors in white organizations and in all walks of life. In this letter SHERRILL claimed that he had many ways of detecting these traitors and often found them listed as members in the Communist organizations. SHERRILL claimed also that he was on the Board

MM 105-677

of Directors and was Vice-President and held other offices in several real white organizations and that he hoped someday to be able to take all young men into an organization that will control the white race and their future for all time to come.

The letter stated also that the time was short and that only two years remained to complete work and save America for the white race. The letter also encouraged the young men to think for themselves, but that there were some white men who did not see the important things that needed to be done and are a must if "we" are to survive the traitors in power in all the states and in Washington.

SHERRILL's letter also warned [ ] not to be confused by the Jew controlled Atlanta bunch, who broke up the old Klan and installed traitors in the official positions of the national and state organizations. The letter stated that this group was now being crushed and would soon not be represented in a single county. This letter, though typewritten, was signed M. B. SHERRILL.

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On November 22, 1954, T-1 advised that M. B. SHERRILL was distributing a new form of application for membership in the Klan. Informant advised that this mimeographed application is captioned "Knights of the Kuklos Klans, a Fraternal-Political Association." Immediately under the caption is a freehand sketch of the mask used by the Klan with the typewritten word to the left "Fraternity" and to the right "Political". Below the mask is the following: "1867. . . . O.O.N.B.F. . . . 1953." Below this appears the following statement:

"If you believe in white supremacy, then you belong. If you believe in segregation of the races, then you belong. If you believe in states rights, then you belong. If you believe that the majority should rule America, then you belong. If you believe in law and order, then you belong. If you believe in the Aryan gentile Clanishness, then you belong. If you believe in

MM 105-677

"perpetuation of the Aryans, then you belong. If you believe in protecting the Aryan womanhood and children, then you belong. If you believe in the United States and its flag, then you belong. If you believe in all of the above and are absolutely opposed to any form of Communism, Marxism, Zionism, Trotskyism, Socialism, Fabianism, Stalinism, Internationalism, or One Worldism and belong to the Aryan race, then you can belong and not otherwise."

Following this was the statement, "The Knights of the Kuklos Klans is the answer to racial minorities. It is the American white race at work. Those initiated into the mysteries of the invisible empire of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan know the value of the American citizenship and the advantages of white supremacy."

Following this was a solicitation to anyone who could subscribe wholly to the above and who was of good moral background to use the application blank on the reverse side, forward it to the Imperial Dragon.

The application blank on the reverse side was a form setting forth spaces for various background information of the applicant. Immediately above the space for the applicant to sign was the following question: "Are you willing to observe all the rules, laws, and edicts of the Grand Dragon, the Exalted Cyclops under him, and the Kakhans?"

It should be noted that on this application form the local klavern was referred to as the local "kavern". It is unknown whether this is a misprint or a new designation for the new klaverns.

Informant also advised that SHERRILL had stated that the initiation fee for the Knights of the Kuklos Klan is \$10, plus \$5 per year dues. SHERRILL also stated that this would be the biggest and the best Klan that had ever been known.

MM 105-677

IX. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
AND THE NATIONAL PATRICK HENRY  
ORGANIZATION

As previously reported under the section of this report captioned "CHARTER", a charter for the Pro-Southerners was issued by the National Patrick Henry Organization. The letterhead currently being used by the Pro-Southerners identifies this organization as a chartered unit of the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc.

On July 21, 1954, T-1 advised that on July 9, 1954, he had learned that M. B. SHERRILL was to attend a national convention of the Patrick Henry Organization, which would be held at Columbus, Georgia, on July 10, 1954, as a delegate and representative of the Pro-Southerners.

On August 6, 1954, T-1 made available the July, 1954, issue of "The Political Reporter" which carried a report on the Patrick Henry Organization convention, which was held on July 10, 1954, at Columbus, Georgia. This report identified M. B. SHERRILL as one of the national Directors of the Patrick Henry Organization.

On September 20, 1954, Miami informant T-6, of known reliability, advised that FRANCIS MC HALE, of Jacksonville, Florida, who had attended the National Convention of the Patrick Henry Organization on July 10, 1954, at Columbus, Georgia, and was a close personal friend of Reverend A. C. SHULLER, who was elected President of the Patrick Henry Organization at the convention, had indicated that he might possibly organize a unit of the Patrick Henry Organization in Jacksonville, Florida. Informant stated that he had no information indicating that if such a unit was organized, that there would be any connection between it and the other chartered unit of the Patrick Henry Organization now in existence in Florida, known as the Pro-Southerners.

MM 105-677

On October 11, 1954, T-6 advised that although MC HALE was still considering organizing a unit of the Patrick Henry Organization in Jacksonville, that no steps have been taken to form a chapter at the present time.

- P\* -

MM 105-677

INDEX

	Pages
ALLEN, MARILYN R. . . . .	17,20.
ALLSTORM, OLIVER . . . . .	17
ARMSTRONG, D. P. . . . .	26
BEAUHARNAIS, JOSEPH . . . . .	4
BICKLEY, J. H. . . . .	11,17
BIEKLEY, GEORGE C. . . . .	11
BRITTON, FRANK L. . . . .	21
CONAN, MRS. M. . . . .	11,12
CURRIE, BOB . . . . .	11,17
DAVIS, AL . . . . .	22
DAVIS, J. D. . . . .	23
EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D. . . . .	9,17
FITZGERALD, CHARLES . . . . .	11
FORREST, NATHAN BEDFORD . . . . .	28
GRIFFITH, R. E. . . . .	11
GRIFFIN, WILLIAM J. . . . .	5,11,12,23,24, 25
[REDACTED] . . . . .	30,31,32
HAVLIN, L. F. . . . .	11
HEATH, HUBERT H. . . . .	11,12

b6  
b7c

MM 105-677

INDEX (Cont.)

HENDRIX, BILL . . . . . 22, 24  
JENKINS, JESSIE . . . . . 6, 7, 11, 12, 17  
KLIEN, CHARLES . . . . . 27  
LEWIS, L. W. . . . . 11  
MC HALE, FRANCIS M. . . . . 17, 34, 35  
MILLER, HORACE SHERMAN . . . . . 15, 17, 18, 20, 25, 28  
MONK, JOHN H. . . . . 11, 12  
MONTGOMERY, DR. T. R. . . . . 17  
MULTER (Congressman, N.Y.) . . . . . 19  
[REDACTED] . . . . . 27, 28, 30  
NELSON, FLETCHER . . . . . 11  
PARKER, CHARLIE . . . . . 22  
PATTERSON, ROBERT . . . . . 11  
PYLE, HARRY WILLIAM . . . . . 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 27, 28, 29  
RICHARDSON, J. E. . . . . 5  
ROPER, SAM . . . . . 27  
SAMMONS, FORREST C. . . . . 11, 12  
SHERRILL, M. B. . . . . 4-26, 30-34  
SHULLER, REV. A. C. . . . . 34

b6  
b7C

MM 105-677

INDEX (Cont.).

SKAGGS, E. G.	11
SMITH, O. E.	24
THATCHER, ALTON	11, 17
TROTSKY, LEON	18
VELDE, HAROLD	9, 14
WILKINS, J. W.	17
WYATT, P. C.	11



MM 105-677

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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This case is being placed in a Pending Inactive status inasmuch as the activities of this organization will be followed through informant coverage and quarterly reports reflecting activity will be submitted.

INFORMANTS

T-1 is [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau and who supplied the information reflected in the body of this report to SA MELVIN MC RAE JETT. The originals of these reports are located in Miami file [redacted]. The literature referred to, which was made available by this informant, is located in Miami file [redacted].

T-2 is [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau and who supplied the information reflected in this report to SA [redacted] in writing. The reports submitted by this informant are retained in Miami file [redacted].

T-3 is [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau and who furnished the information reflected in the body of this report to SA MELVIN MC RAE JETT in writing. Informant's reports are located in Miami file [redacted].

T-4 is [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau and who supplied the information, reflected in the body of this report to SA CASSIUS RATHBUN in writing. Informant's reports are located in Miami file [redacted].

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont.)

T-5 is Mr. CARL HANSSON, Chief of Police, Dallas, Texas, who made available to the Dallas Office a photostatic copy of correspondence over the signature of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, dated October 22, 1954, postmarked Memphis, Tenn., addressed to [redacted], Dallas, Texas, and two letters dated November 10, 1954, addressed to [redacted], Dallas, Texas, dated at Ft. Pierce, Florida, bearing return address P.O. Box 1071, over the signature of M. B. SHERRILL.

T-6 is [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau and who supplied the information reflected in the body of this report to SA BENNETT M. HIRSH in writing. Informant's reports are located in Miami file [redacted].

LEADS

ALBUQUERQUE, BALTIMORE, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, EL PASO, HOUSTON, LITTLE ROCK, LOS ANGELES, LOUISVILLE, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, NORFOLK, OKLAHOMA CITY, OMAHA, PHOENIX, PITTSBURGH, SALT LAKE CITY, SAN ANTONIO, SAVANNAH, ST. LOUIS.

One copy of this report is being designated for each of the above offices inasmuch as there is indication that M. B. SHERRILL has been in contact with persons residing in the territories covered by these offices or that members of the Advisory Board as listed on the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners are residents of these areas. It should be noted that where the exact address of a member of the Advisory Board was unknown and the state in which he resides was the only address available, one copy of this report has been designated to all offices covering territory within that state.

MM 105-677

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont.)

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

Will follow and report any relationship between the Pro-Southerners and the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., that might be recorded by informant coverages and other sources.

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS:

Will maintain contact with CARL HANSSON, Chief of Police, Dallas, Texas, for any additional information that might come to his attention regarding the activities of the Pro-Southerners within the Dallas territory.

AT FORT WORTH, TEXAS:

Will verify the placing of an ad appearing in the Fort Worth "Star Telegram" on Sunday, June 27, 1954, soliciting correspondence with the Pro-Southerners, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida. Will determine by what means this ad was placed in instant paper and the identity of the party or parties responsible for placing such an ad.

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Will report on the activities of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, publisher of "The Political Reporter" it being noted that "The Political Reporter" is the official publication adopted by the Pro-Southerners.

MM 105-677

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont.)

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Will continue to follow and report on the activities of the Pro-Southerners in the Miami territory.

REFERENCES: Miami letter to Bureau, 6/29/54.  
Bulet to Miami, 7/13/54.  
Miami letter to Bureau, 8/3/54.  
Dallas letter to Bureau, 11/19/54.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- Mr. Belmont  
- Mr. Tamm

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

January 14, 1955

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 07-29-2010

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-28645

There is enclosed one copy of the report of  
Special Agent Melvin McRae Jett, dated January 4, 1955, at  
Miami.

You will note the Pro-Southerners is being used  
as a front organization for the Association of Florida  
Klans and as an organization from which trusted members  
can be recruited for Ku Klux Klan membership.

This report is being furnished for your  
consideration in connection with the provisions of  
Executive Order 10450.

Enclosure (1)

RET:lfj  
(5)

RECORDED-125

13 JAN 17 1955

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI

JAN 14 1955

MAILED 20

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sch

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

REPORT MADE AT <b>MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2-25-55</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2-18, 21-55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, JR.</b>
TITLE <b>PRO-SOUTHERNERS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The Political Reporter, edited and published by HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, 3601 S. Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tenn. is described by informant as being "white supremacist and anti-Semitic" paper. Subject organization unknown to informant.			
<p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -                     u(s)                      JENN Mo</p> <p>DETAILS: Memphis Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE is a native of Memphis, having moved to this address in about September, 1952. This informant stated that ever since he has known PYLE, which has been for approximately ten months, he has been active in publishing a white supremacist paper called "The Political Reporter" and is also active in publishing other pamphlets of a similar nature. He stated that PYLE has advised him that he gets much of the material for his paper and pamphlets from a friend of his in New York. He did not identify the friend to informant.</p> <p>Informant stated that all of the material which he has seen in the possession of PYLE has been very anti-Semitic and anti-Negro while at the same time being anti-Communist. He stated that PYLE requires \$2.00 a year for a subscription to his paper, "The Political Reporter", and will mail it to any point in the United States. He stated further that PYLE at one time was seeking</p> <p><i>Let Memphis 3-9-55</i> <i>CRH</i></p> <p>AGENCY <i>RABO-6, 6-2, 0N6, 0S5</i> REQ. REC'D _____ DATE <i>2-28-55</i> HQS. <i>PLS</i> BY <i>CPW-2</i></p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		105-28645-	
⑥ - Bureau (105-28645) (RM) 1 - Albuquerque (Info.) (RM) 1 - Atlanta (Info.) (RM) 1 - Baltimore (Info.) (RM) (-SEE NEXT PAGE)		2 MAR 3 1955 RECORDED-11 INDEXED-11	

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70 MAR 10 1955

ME. # 105-98

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1 - Pittsburgh (Info.) (RM)  
1 - Salt Lake City (Info.) (RM)  
1 - San Antonio (Info.) (RM)  
1 - Savannah (Info.) (RM)  
1 - St. Louis (Info.) (RM)  
3 - Miami (105-677) (RM)  
3 - Memphis (100-3214) (105-98)

information which would tend to show that Negroes commit more traffic violations in proportion to their numbers than do white people. The informant assumed that he would use this in his publication. He also stated that PYLE was very secretive in his actions and although he received a considerable amount of mail, he never threw it away but burned it all in his back yard. He also stated that apparently when PYLE sends out his papers, he does not mail them but ships them by Railway Express and makes arrangements to have them picked up at some point in downtown Memphis by Railway Express Company.

T-1 stated that he has never known PYLE to be gainfully employed, and gave the following description of PYLE:

Age	50 years
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5' 7"
Weight	170 - 175 lbs.
Hair	Grey (balding)
Eyes	Color unknown
Marital Status	Married
Children	One son, name unknown, just out of U. S. Army; one daughter, name unknown, apparently formerly married and has 2 children

ME. # 105-98

All of the above persons reside with PYLE at his home, 3601 South Lloyd Circle, Memphis.

T-1 stated that PYLE's daughter who lives with him very frequently entertains as a visitor a man by the name of CAMPBELL. He also stated he understands that CAMPBELL writes some articles for PYLE's publications. Informant stated that he understood that PYLE is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. JENN

The 1951 Memphis City Directory listed <sup>Mrs + Mr</sup> HARRY W. PYLE, wife, FRIEDA PYLE, as living at 22 Angelus Street, Memphis. JENN  
It showed him as the owner of the house and listed his occupation as that of an interior decorator. Mo

The above information was obtained from informant on January 15, 1953. The informant was recontacted on June 14, 1954 and on February 18, 1955, and advised that he had never heard PYLE mention the Pro-Southerners or any specific organization.

- R U C -



ME. # 105-98

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

Memphis is by separate letter of this date advising the Bureau of PYLE's activities and requesting authority to conduct an investigation of him. It will be noted that files of this office reflect that PYLE has been to some indeterminate degree connected with the following organizations:

"The White Circle League";  
"The National Citizens Protective Association";  
~~"The Southern Knights of the Ku-Klux Klan, aka~~  
American Confederate Army, State Association of  
the Knights of the KK, White Brotherhood -  
Order of the Bethel";  
"The Association of the Florida Klans".

Although this matter is being considered RUC, the receiving offices which are being furnished information copies of this report will be furnished copies of the initial report on PYLE and The Political Reporter in the event authority is received from the Bureau to initiate a comprehensive investigation.

Information copies of this report are being furnished the designated offices, as they received copies of referenced report and in some cases have received copies of other reports in which PYLE is mentioned.

- INFORMANTS -

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTIVITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION	DATE RECEIVED	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	FILE NO. WHERE LOCATED
T-1 is [redacted] [redacted] MPD, neighbor of subject	General information re Political Reporter	1-15-53	SA WILL- IAM H. LA WRENCE	105-76-13
	Recontact	6-14-54	SA JOSEPH H. KEAR- NEY, JR.	100-2371-10
		2-18-55	" "	Originally reported herein

REFERENCE: Report of SA MELVIN Mc RAE JETT dated January 4,  
1955 at Miami.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(3-)

FORM NO. 1,  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

REPORT MADE AT <b>DALLAS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/28/55</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/11; 2/2, 16/55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN W. FAIN</b> <span style="float: right;">gcd</span>
TITLE <b>PRO-SOUTHERNERS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Chief of Police, Dallas, Tex., advised he will furnish any further information he receives on Pro-Southerners; M. B. SHERILL, Secretary-Manager of Pro-Southerners, Fort Pierce, Fla., reported to have requested the Classified Department of "Fort Worth Star-Telegram", Fort Worth, Tex., to run the following ad: "WHITE PEOPLE OF AMERICA. If you believe in and want to keep white supremacy, segregation, and our American way of life, write Pro-Southerners, P. O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida". Above ad run under "Personal Items" in issue of Star-Telegram for Sunday, 6/27/54.

- RUC -

AGENCY RAB-6, 62, ONI, OSI  
REQ. REC'D \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE FORW. 3-8-55  
HOW FORW. ELS  
BY CFW-J

**DETAILS: At Dallas, Texas:**

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent VINCENT E. DRAIN.

Chief of Police CARL HANSSON, Dallas Police Department, advised on February 2, 1955, that in the event he received any more information in regard to the Pro-Southerners, he will advise this Office.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 6 - Bureau (105-28645) (REGISTERED MAIL) 5 - Miami (105-677) (REGISTERED MAIL) 2 - Dallas (105-452)		105-28645-14 17 MAR 4 1955	RECORDED - 40 INDEXED - 40

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58 MAR -8 1955

DL 105-452

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At Fort Worth, Texas:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOHN W. FAIN:

On February 2, 1955, Mr. [redacted], Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a daily newspaper, Fort Worth, Texas, made available a copy of instant classified ad of the Star-Telegram for Sunday, June 27, 1954, which is being maintained in the Dallas File. It was observed that the following ad appeared printed under "Personal Items" on Page 6, Section 3: "WHITE PEOPLE OF AMERICA. If you believe in and want to keep white supremacy, segregation and our American way of life, write Pro-Southerners, P. O. Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

Mr. [redacted] made available a letter dated June 23, 1954, on the letter head of Pro-Southerners, P. O. Box 1071, Phone 939-M, Fort Pierce, Florida, and signed M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager, addressed to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Attention: Classified Advertising Department, and enclosing \$5.00 with a request that the above ad be run in the Sunday issue, June 27, 1954, of the Star-Telegram. A subscription to the Sunday issues of the Star-Telegram was also requested.

It was observed that the letterhead of Pro-Southerners contained the following printed matter: "A Chartered Unit of the Patrick Henry Organization, Inc." and also, "Organized for Political Action Against Racial Mixing and Communism in the South".

The letterhead also set forth the names of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Tennessee, as Board Chairman, and M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager. The following members of the Advisory Board were also listed: ROBERT PATTERSON, Mississippi; ALTON HATCHER, Missouri; BCE CURRIE, Nevada; J. H. BICKLEY, South Carolina; CHARLES FITZGERALD, Texas; F. C. SAMMONS, West Virginia; Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS, Georgia; Mrs. M. CONAN, Arizona; JOHN H. MONK, Virginia; E. G. SKAGGS, M.D., Kentucky; FLETCHER NELSON, Louisiana; H. M. SHERRILL, Alabama; L. F. HANLIN, Oklahoma; W. J. GRIFFIN, Florida; HUBERT H. HEATH, New Mexico; GEORGE C. BIEKLEY, Maryland; R. E. GRIFFITH, Oklahoma; P. C. WYATT, North Carolina; and, L. W. LEWIS, Arkansas.

MEMBERS OF PRO-SOUTHERNERS

- RUC -

DL 105-452

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE

Report of Special Agent MELVIN MC RAE JETT, Dated  
January 4, 1955, at Miami.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sch

Williams

SAC, Memphis (105-98)

March 9, 1955

Director, FBI (105-28645)

PRC-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reference report SA Joseph Kearney, Jr., dated 2-25-55.

Bureau copies of rerep have been declassified. You are instructed to declassify your copies and advise all offices receiving copies of this report to do likewise.

2cc - SAC, Miami (105-677)

CFW:bas  
(6)

ON YELLOW: This report contains only information concerning "The Political Reporter," an anti-Negro, anti-Semitic publication. All of the information contained in the report was obtained from a member of the Memphis Police Department. No data is contained in the report, the dissemination of which would be detrimental to the security of the United States.

RECORDED-45

105-28645-15  
13 MAR 11 1955

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
MAR 9 - 1955  
MAILED 24

MAR 18 1955

C. F. WILLIAMS

SAC, Miami (105-677)

June 14, 1955

Director, FBI (105-28645)

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY -X

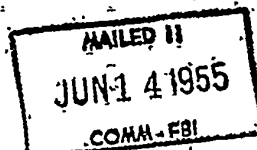
Reurlet dated May 27, 1955, captioned "Knights of the Kuklos Klan, IS-X" wherein you advised that the captioned organization is a front for the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and, therefore, the case on the Pro-Southerners is being closed.

A review of Bufiles reflects that in the report of Special Agent Melvin McRae Jett dated January 4, 1955, in the captioned matter, it was reported that the Pro-Southerners is also a front organization for the Association of Florida Klans.

In the event the Pro-Southerners is connected only with the Knights of the Kuklos Klan you may close the case administratively. However, in the event the Pro-Southerners is in any way connected with any other organization you should maintain the case in a pending status. You are instructed to advise the current status of Pro-Southerners and submit your recommendations in this matter.

CFW:bas  
(4)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



RECORDED - 67

JUN 15 1955

EX-100

JUN 21 1955



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-20145)

DATE: July 7, 1955

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-677)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

SUBJECT: PRO SOUTHERNERS

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

IS - X

INDEXED - 54

b2  
b7D

Re Subject 6/14/55.

The Pro Southerners was organized in May, 1954 by M. S. SHEPHERD of Fort Pierce, Florida and was subsequently chartered by the Patrick Henry Association, Inc., of Columbia, Georgia, as a unit of that organization. At the time it was chartered M. S. SHEPHERD indicated to [redacted], who has furnished reliable information in the past, that he secured a charter from the Patrick Henry Association. It gave the organization official standing and additional prestige. Subsequent investigation and information supplied by [redacted] has failed to show any control that the Patrick Henry Association might have over the Pro Southerners as an organization or a chartered unit of that organization. To the contrary information that has been made available to the Miami Office indicates that M. S. SHEPHERD has used the Pro Southerners, since its inception, as a paper organization to distribute white supremacist literature throughout the Southern States. It should be noted that during the course of the past several months [redacted] has established a very close and personal acquaintance with M. S. SHEPHERD and was [redacted] the Pro Southerners. His membership is considered by him as a member at large and he has indicated that he feels that all memberships of the Pro Southerners are members at large rather than active individual units or charters of this organization.

In July, 1954 M. S. SHEPHERD was appointed to the Grand Title of the Association of Florida Plans by WILLIAM L. [redacted], the organizer and Grand Dragon of this organization. At that time SHEPHERD indicated to [redacted] that the Pro Southerners would be used as a front organization for the Association of Florida Plans and that from its membership trusted members would be selected for full Plan membership. Shortly thereafter, [redacted] reported that from conversation with SHEPHERD it appeared as though SHEPHERD and [redacted] were growing further apart. This information was also verified at approximately the same

REGISTERED WITH  
105-677

RECORDED-59

INDEXED-59

8 JUL 8 1955

60 JUL 14 1955

EX-122

Letter to the Director, FBI

July 7, 1955

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b7D

time by [ ] who advised that GRIFFIN had made the remark that he had not received any information from SHERRILL as to what progress he was making in organizing units of the Association of Florida Klans in the Southern area of Florida. In November, 1954 this was further verified by information received by [ ] which indicated that SHERRILL was no longer affiliated with the Association of Florida Klans but instead had been appointed as the Grand Dragon for the State of Florida for the Knights of Kuklos Klan, an organization allegedly patented after the original Ku Klux Klan. [ ] identified HARRY WILLIAM POWELL of Memphis, Tennessee as the Imperial Dragon of this organization. [ ] also advised that this organization was national in scope which was in keeping with the ideas of M. B. SHERRILL, whereas WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN was alleged by SHERRILL to be interested only in a state klan organization. From the information available it appears that since November, 1954 SHERRILL has affiliated with the Knights of Kuklos. Informant also advised that both HARRY WILLIAM POWELL and M. B. SHERRILL used the stationery of the Pro Southerners in correspondence regarding the Knights of the Kuklos Klan.

HARRY  
WILLIAM  
POWELL  
PYLE

[ ] has also advised that HARRY WILLIAM POWELL resigned his position as Vice-President of the Patrick Henry Association and gave as his reason that he was devoting full time to the work of the Pro Southerners.

In view of all available information it now appears that the Pro Southerners was originally formed by M. B. SHERRILL as a paper or front organization to be used for the benefit of any Klan organization with which he might be associated. This will also explain why at one time the Pro Southerners was identified as a front organization for the Association of Florida Klans and has subsequently been described as a front organization for the Knights of the Kuklos Klan.

It is pointed out that this organization may also be used as a front organization for additional klan organizations if and when M. B. SHERRILL changes his affiliation from one klan to another. As there is no indication of the Pro Southerners existing as an organized unit and it appears to be only a name being used by SHERRILL to distribute literature and to cover up his klan activities it is recommended that all information relating to the Pro Southerners be reported in the investigation of the Klan organization with which SHERRILL is currently connected.



Letter to the Director, FBI.

July 7, 1955

Therefore, HAO the Miami Office will continue the Pro Southerners in a closed status and report all information relating to this organization under the investigation entitled Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the organization which SHERRILL is presently affiliated.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

1-Williams

SAG, Miami (105-857)

September 22, 1955

Director, FBI (105-38072)

KNIGHTS OF THE KUKLOS KLAN  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Rerep SA Leon O. Prior dated 9-3-55.

Information set forth in rerep indicates captioned organization is nonexistent and this case was closed by the Miami Office with the submission of rerep.

Prior to Bureau approval of your closing this case it is desired that you advise the status of the Pro-Southerners. By letter 5-27-55 you advised that Pro-Southerners is a front for the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and, therefore, activities of the Pro-Southerners would be reported in connection with the captioned organization. At that time the case on Pro-Southerners was closed by your office.

In the event Pro-Southerners is active and you desire to close the case on the captioned organization the case on pro-Southerners should be reopened.

105-28645-1  
NOT RECORDED  
87 SEP 27 1955

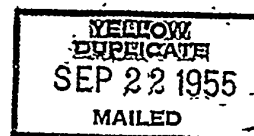
CFW:bas

(5)

1 - 105-28645 (Pro-Southerners)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

52 SEP 28 1955



ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-38072-10

100-78  
(1-10-49)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:

FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE 07-26-2010

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MEMPHIS

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12-8-55</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9-6, 15, 30; 12-2, 5, 6-55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, JR. FJ</b>
TITLE <b>THE POLITICAL REPORTER</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Publication of "The Political Reporter" has been discontinued by HARRY WILLIAM PYLE due to his activity in the promotion of the "Pro-Southerners." Investigation reflects that PYLE has established approximately nine neighborhood "Pro-Southerners" groups in Memphis and claims to have 700 members in Memphis. PYLE also claims the organization has about 7000 members through the country. The growth of the Pro-Southerners has created dissension between PYLE and other individuals that he has interested in Pro-Southerners. PYLE believed to be using Pro-Southerners as front for Knights of the Kuklos Klan, although there is not known to be any organizational connection between the two groups. On 7-17-55, PYLE spoke at Walnut Ridge, Ark. meeting protesting integration in public schools at Hoxie, Ark., and identified himself as connected with Pro-Southerners. PYLE possibly connected with distribution of anti-integration mimeographed letters in Memphis purportedly issued by "The Pioneers of Tennessee." PYLE also known to have distributed literature of Federation for Constitutional Government, New Orleans, which is designed to affect unification of all anti-integration forces.

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(1- 105-28645)

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1- Miami (105-677) (info) RM  
3- Memphis (100-3214)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT  See above		105-128645-1 ✓	
		NOT RECORDED 151 JAN 5 1956	

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

64 JAN 9 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 65-41520-1

ME # 100-3214

DETAILS:

I. PRESENT STATUS OF THE POLITICAL REPORTER

On September 15, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-1, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that The Political Reporter was apparently the personal project of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, and that the publication thereof was completely dependent on PYLE. Informant noted that PYLE has not published The Political Reporter since the June, 1955 issue. Informant gained the impression that although PYLE continues to be extremely interested in The Political Reporter, that he has not had in recent months sufficient funds to publish it. Informant also stated that PYLE has been so interested in the promotion of an organization known as the Pro-Southerners that he has had little time for The Political Reporter. Informant also pointed out that PYLE has been extremely active in the local affairs of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan, which appears to be affiliated with the Pro-Southerners. Informant stated both of these organizations are combating all types of racial integration, and that PYLE is extremely interested in their welfare.

Regarding The Political Reporter, the above informant also advised on September 30, 1955, that PYLE still had made no effort to publish a current edition of The Political Reporter. Informant noted that PYLE has in the past published the paper on a small mimeograph machine; that he cuts his own stencils, and writes much of his own material. Informant noted due to the fact that PYLE is very inefficient in the use of a typewriter and it takes a great amount of time for him to get out The Political Reporter, that this probably accounts for his neglecting the paper as he has been very busy with local activities of the Pro-Southerners. On December 5, 1955, the above informant advised that PYLE had definitely discontinued The Political Reporter and had no intention at the present time to publish it again in the foreseeable future.

II. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF HARRY WILLIAM PYLE,  
EDITOR OF THE POLITICAL REPORTER

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On September 8, 1955, Captain [redacted], Detective Division, Memphis Police Department, advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE an informant of his who had furnished reliable information in the past advised that on September 4, 1955, a bulletin was placed in his car, which was parked at Mayfield and Jackson Avenue in Memphis, which invited the recipient thereof to attend a meeting of the Pro-Southerners which was to be held at the home of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, 3601 S. Lloyd Circle, on September 7, 1955. Captain [redacted]'s informant attended the meeting and stated that PYLE showed him an identification card bearing the number 286 and the words "Grand Wizard KKK."

Informant stated to Captain [redacted] that there were eight people at this meeting. He also stated a Dr. MONTGOMERY was present, and that the informant believed Dr. MONTGOMERY was the State

Me#100-3214

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Organizer for the Pro-Southerners. Informant stated further to Captain [redacted], another man known to him only as "Bill", but who he believes to be the Secretary and Treasurer of the Pro-Southerners for Tennessee, was present. Informant stated that PYLE was the principal speaker, and that PYLE's speech was devoted to anti-Negro, anti-Jewish, and anti-Catholic statements.

Informant also stated to Captain [redacted] that the Pro-Southerners claimed to have 400 members in Memphis, 1000 in the state, 5000 in Texas and also claimed that ninety per cent of the white population of both Florida and Alabama are members thereof. Informant was of the opinion that membership in the organization was being solicited in Memphis in order to form a political pressure group to use during the November 10, 1955 Memphis City Election.

Informant stated to Captain [redacted] that he was given four applications for membership in the Pro-Southerners and was given a booklet bearing the caption, "The Negro in a Soviet America", written by JAMES W. FORD and JAMES S. ALLEN. Informant noted this booklet bore the name of The Political Reporter stamped therein. Informant also advised Captain [redacted] that another meeting was planned for September 8, 1955 at the home of [redacted] Memphis. Informant also stated another meeting was planned for September 9, 1955 at 8:00 PM at [redacted], the home of one [redacted]. Informant pointed out if the crowd attending the meeting at [redacted]'s home was sufficiently large the meeting would be moved to Raney's Grocery Store located at the rear of Sharp and Holland Streets.

Informant stated to Captain [redacted] that PYLE appeared from his speech to be the organizer of the Pro-Southerners for the entire southern area, and that the boss is a man by the name of "Kelly", who bears the title of Cyclops in the Knights of the Kluklos Klan. Informant was of the opinion that "Kelly" was recently released from a Federal Penitentiary, where he had been sentenced as a result of his membership in the Klan.

On September 6, 1955, T-1, supra, advised that he had observed a list of individuals in PYLE's possession, which based on comments of PYLE, he believed to be the members and leaders of the Knights of the Kluklos Klan in Memphis. Informant made available a list of these names and stated so far as he has been able to determine these are all of the members of the Knights of the Kluklos Klan in Memphis:

(FNU) WORTHINGTON - Kakhan  
(FNU) STONE - Kakhan.  
Dr. (FNU) MONTGOMERY - Scorpion

F. K. LASHBROOK - Kakhan  
(FNU) BONDS - Kakhan  
HOWARD WHITE - Kakhan  
RAY WHITE - Kakhan

T-1 stated with regard to the above, that PYLE commonly refers to himself as the Imperial Dragon of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and commonly refers to WILKERSON as the Grand Dragon. This informant pointed out so far as he has been able to ascertain there are no regularly scheduled Knights of Kuklos Klan meetings in Memphis, and that PYLE, along with Dr. T. R. MONTGOMERY, who informant stated is identical with the above MONTGOMERY, and JOEL WILKERSON, will call on other Kuklos Klansmen and discuss Klan business. Informant stated that he has been able to obtain no information that the Klan is engaged in any activities or is planning to engage in such activities as cross burning or the wearing of robes or other regalia commonly associated with the Ku Klux Klan organization.

Informant pointed out that there appears to be no close organizational tie between the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and the Pro-Southerners. The latter organization is described by informant as being an open mass type organization, active in the Memphis area, and supported by the above members of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan. Informant was of the opinion, however, that PYLE and his associates in the Knights of the Kuklos Klan would use the large membership of the Pro-Southerners as a field for recruitment into the Knights of the Kuklos Klan. b6 b7C

Regarding the above individuals, informant believes that "FNU" STONE - Kakhan is possibly identical with WILLIAM STONE of 2837 Birchwood or [redacted] of [redacted], both Memphis. Informant believes that the above mentioned STONE is most likely WILLIAM STONE as PYLE has described this individual as being the Secretary-Treasurer of one of the major groups of the Pro-Southerners in Memphis and possibly of the entire Memphis group.

On September 6, 1955, T-1, supra, made available to this office a three page brochure issued by the Federation for Constitutional Government. This literature reflected that the temporary headquarters of the Federation for Constitutional Government were located at 801 American Bank Building, P. O. Box 86, New Orleans 6, Louisiana. Informant stated a large number of these brochures had been received recently by HARRY WILLIAM PYLE. Informant was of the opinion that PYLE had received the literature of the Federation for Constitutional Government from M. V. SHERRELL, Fort Pierce, Florida. Informant noted recently PYLE had written to SHERRELL requesting that he send to PYLE pro-segregation material which PYLE could distribute or sell, and that in recent weeks PYLE had been busy mailing out a

Me#100-3214

volume of the above mentioned brochures in the vicinity of Memphis. Informant noted that the Federation for Constitutional Government was apparently designed, according to its literature, to coordinate the activities of the various pro-segregation groups presently operating in the south.

Regarding the above mentioned M. V. SHERRELL, Memphis Confidential Informant T-2, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 17, 1954 that M. V. SHERRELL of Fort Pierce, Florida was forming an organization known as the Pro-Southerners, a pro-segregation organization, and that PYLE hopes that a nucleus of a Knights of the KuKlos Klan organization in Florida could be formed consisting of various leaders and members of the Pro-Southerners. Informant stated that SHERRELL had given him the definite impression that one of his partners in this venture would be HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee.

On September 23, 1955, Sergeant [redacted] ASPOL, Jonesboro, Arkansas, advised SA ESTES G. COLEMAN that he had attended the rally at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas on September 17, 1955 which was sponsored by the Citizens Committee of Hoxie. Sergeant [redacted] advised that PYLE made a short talk at the rally and as he recalled PYLE stated he was connected with the Pro-Southerners in Memphis. Sergeant [redacted] stated that PYLE assured the Citizens Committee in Hoxie that the organization in Memphis would help in any way possible but did not want any violence.

The Walnut Ridge newspaper, "The Times Dispatch", dated September 22, 1955, listed among the speakers in the above mentioned rally on September 17, 1955, the name of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Memphis and quoted PYLE as stating he was head of an organization known as the Pro-Southerners which is fighting integration in Memphis.

Regarding PYLE's attendance at the above meeting, T-1, supra, advised on September 15, 1955, it was PYLE's intention to attend the rally and make a speech denouncing racial integration in the public schools in Hoxie, Arkansas.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper, in the September 30, 1955 issued, contained the following article:

**"MEETINGS BEING HELD BY PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
Retention of Segregation Among Aims  
of Group"**

"An organization co-founded by a retired Memphis contractor and dedicated to retaining segregation in schools and 'staying the hand that would mongrelize the white race' is sponsoring neighborhood

Me#100-3214

membership meetings throughout the city and county.

"Known as 'Pro-Southerners', the organization claims more than 700 members in nine Memphis and Shelby County groups.

"Harry William Pyle, a retired decorating contractor, said he founded Pro-Southerners last year with M. V. Sherrell of Fort Pierce, Fla. Mr. Pyle is national chairman, while Mr. Sherrell serves as secretary-treasurer. National headquarters are in Fort Pierce.

"Mr. Pyle, who spoke at an organizational meeting in a neighborhood south of the Airport last night, said Pro-Southerners has about 7,000 members in all 48 states.

"We are holding meetings here every week night and hope to have 75 groups functioning in Memphis and Shelby County within the next few months," he said.

"Pro-Southerners is circulating mimeographed circulars warning that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 'is organizing to whip the white race into subjection and racial mixing.' Labeling this 'a communist move,' the circular poses the questions, 'Are you on their side?' 'Are you a Mixie-crát?' 'Or are you a Pro-Southerner?'

"We are absolutely opposed to any violence," Mr. Pyle said, "and we think that by organizing we can avoid any violence."

"Mr. Pyle listed the following as officers of Pro-Southerners on the local level: Joel Wilkerson, insurance man, county chairman; Dr. T. R. Montgomery, Memphis physician, county vice chairman; and Mrs. Ruth Moody, secretary. Due are \$2 a year, and are divided equally between national and local offices.

"Mr. Pyle, who lives at 3601 South Lloyd Circle, ran ninth among nine candidates for city commissioner posts in the 1931 municipal election. He organized the Loyal Order of Americans here in the early 1930s. The order was an organization of workers seeking old age and unemployment insurance and repeal of the 18th (Prohibition) Amendment. In early depression days, he served as chairman of the Memphis Unemployed Citizens' League, a group which gave aid to unemployed persons."

During recent months various individuals in Memphis, Tennessee have called to the attention of this office letters received by them bearing only the signature of "The Pioneers of Tennessee."

On September 30, 1955, T-1, supra, advised that HARRY



Me#100-3214

WILLIAM PYLE had a large quantity of letters which had been issued by "The Pioneers of Tennessee." The informant further explained that PYLE had allegedly obtained these letters from FRANK WHISMAN, and that PYLE intends to pass them out to his friends and to read excerpts from them at various meetings of the Pro-Southerners. These letters first came to the attention of the Memphis Office in July of 1955. One of these letters furnished by Confidential Informant T-3, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, is as follows:

"THE PIONEERS OF TENNESSEE"

"Dear Friend:

"Allow us to express our deepest appreciation for your efforts to overcome the racial problem in the South. Without your cooperation the school segregation would still be in effect. I can assure you that we will live up to all standards the white man has been used to.

"While we have the race mongers on the defensive we must not release the pressure we have exerted upon them. We must turn a deft ear to their preachings of race hatred and bigotry. Also, we must exert our wrath upon those who are striving to keep the colored man in economic bondage. We read in the Bible where God made man in his own image. We have no proof that he is white instead of colored.

"Again, we call upon you to support more legislation to hasten an end to the racial problem. We are preparing a bill to go before congress in the future to prevent whites from marrying whites and colored from marrying colored. This will end the racial problem in only two generations. We urge you to write your congressman and Senators to support this bill. Also ask all of your friends to do likewise.

We thank you sincerely,  
THE PIONEERS OF TENNESSEE."

An additional letter reportedly issued by The Pioneers of Tennessee, which was furnished this office by Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Memphis, is as follows:

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"THE PIONEERS OF TENNESSEE"

"Dear Friend:

"We are attempting an enlightenment of the masses of West Tennessee in regards to the local election. We hope you will

Me#100-3214

inform all your friends of conditions. We must prevent the regime of the late capitalist leader from going any farther.

"The local capitalist leader who lives in Arkansas and runs Memphis has passed the word to his crippled hatchet man who isn't even a resident of Memphis to throw his support to the capitalist regime. As long as this mottly group of politicians are in power intergration will be impossible for us. This election will be a showdown for the collor race. We must win.

"We ask you to support our two great Heroes Henry Loeb and Watkis Overton. They are the only friends of the masses. The Jewish people are supporting them so we must in turn support them for all they have done for Integration and a socialised state. We have the capitalist element almost whipped in this country so now is the time to exer\_ all the effort we can.

"Our two Heroes intend to build housing for all the colord people in Memphis. It si the duty for the tax-payers to furnish housing for the less fortunate. They can afford it. By increasing taxatio we will be another step toward our goal. Support anything that will increase taxation.

"Yuors for VICTORY against the capitalist

"THE PIONEERS OF TENNESSEE"

Regarding the above letters and The Pioneers of Tennessee, T-1 supra, could furnish no additional information except to state recently PYLE and FRANK WHISMAN have had personal difficulties, although PYLE and WHISMAN still cooperate in some activities.

On September 30, 1955, T-1, supra, advised that he had obtained a list of the members of the "A. B. Hill Group" of the Pro-Southerners. This informant noted that PYLE had this list as a result of his position of Advisory Board Chairman of the Pro-Southerners:



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On November 15, 1955, T-1, supra, advised that PYLE

Me#100-3214

continues to operate as the Memphis head of the Pro-Southerners. Informant noted that PYLE had been confined to his home a lot due to an infection on his face. Informant also noted that PYLE has become more discreet in his handling of the names of his contacts, including the members of the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and the Pro-Southerners, but had stated to informant that meetings of the Pro-Southerners were being held in Memphis practically every night by different neighborhood groups. Informant stated it was obvious from his contacts with PYLE that considerable jealousy between PYLE and JOEL WILKERSON exists. He said WILKERSON, who according to PYLE, was Chairman of the Shelby County, Tennessee unit of the Pro-Southerners. Informant noted this jealousy was primarily over the financial affairs of the Pro-Southerners. Informant stated that PYLE evidently feels that WILKERSON is withholding some of the Pro-Southerners initiation and membership fees paid in by various Memphians who have joined the organization on recent dates. Informant noted also on November 15, 1955, that he had been unable to obtain any further information from PYLE relative to the connection, if any, between The Pioneers of Tennessee and the Pro-Southerners.

On September 30, 1955, T-1, supra, was able to obtain from PYLE a list of the members of two groups of the Pro-Southerners. It is noted that this list contained alongside most of the names the notation "Paid." Informant stated this notation indicated that the individuals in question had paid the \$2.00 per year dues in the Pro-Southerners. This list is as follows:

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Chairman

(He Is Secretary and Treasurer)

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Also on the same date T-1 furnished a list of nine known groups of Pro-Southerners then existing in Memphis, according to PYLE. This list is as follows:

Group 1	3601 S. Lloyd Circle
Group 2	Hickman Bldg.
Group 3	Meadow Lane
Group 4	Bullington St.
Group 5	Mary Rd.
Group 6	Gaston Ave.
Group 7	Scattered
Group 8	Raleigh
Group 9	Frayser, no listing

Informant noted in regard to the above listed individuals, that he had no knowledge as to the degree of activity of the individuals listed therein and had no personal knowledge that they were connected with the Pro-Southerners, but had observed the list in the possession of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE.

Me#100-3214 .

Two additional copies of this report are furnished herewith to the Bureau for information in connection with their files on the Knights of the Kuklos Klan and the Pro-Southerners.

One copy is furnished Little Rock for information because of the activity of PYLE at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and because of the proximity of Arkansas to Tennessee and the likelihood that PYLE may become involved in other activities in that state.

One copy is furnished New Orleans for information because of PYLE's interest in the Federation for Constitutional Government.

One copy is furnished Miami for information because of the connection between PYLE and M. W. SHERRELL and the Pro-Southerners in that state.

As The Political Reporter has become dormant and informant has indicated it will not likely be republished in the future due to the fact that PYLE is primarily interested at the present time in the Pro-Southerners, future reports covering his activities will carry that caption. It is noted that the Miami Office is the Office of Origin in the Pro-Southerners investigation.

# INFORMANTS

<u>DATE OF ACTIVITY OR DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION</u>	<u>DATE RECEIVED</u>	<u>AGENT TO WHOM FUR- NISHED</u>	<u>FILE NO. WHERE LO- CATED</u>
<u>OF SOURCE</u>			
T-1 [Redacted]	Status of Political Reporter	9-15-55 9-30-55 12-5-55	WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE & J.H. KEAR- NEY
	Kuklos Klan	9-6-55	" " 100-3214-95
	Pioneers of Tenn.-	9-30-55	" " 100-3214-100
	Federation for Con- stitutional Govern- ment	9-6-55 9-30-55	LAWRENCE " " 100-3214-96 100-3214-102
T-2 [Redacted]	Documentation of M.V. SHERRELL		
T-3 [Redacted]	Pioneers of Tenn.	7-7-55	" " 100-3456-4

# ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Me#100-3214

Careful consideration has been given to the use of the above T-symbols and they have been used only where deemed necessary.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, JR., dated 8-2-55 at Memphis.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. Nichols ☒  
Mr. Boardman ☒  
Mr. Belmont ☒  
Mr. Mason ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Mr. Parsons ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Tamm ☒  
Mr. Nease ☒  
Mr. Winterrowd ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Mr. Holloman ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sch

DEC 13 1955

TELETYPE

FBI, MIAMI

12-13-55

10-52 PM

RHO

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, MEMPHIS U R G E N T

PRO-SOUTHERNERS. IS DASH X. CHIEF RUDDY CASSENS, NA, FT. PIERCE,

FLA. PD ADVISED TODAY THAT FT. PIERCE TRIBUNE RECEIVED REQUEST

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE UNITED PRESS  
YESTERDAY FROM INS AND UP FOR INFO RE PRO-SOUTHERNERS AND HAS DIS-

PATCHED TODAY, STORY QUOTING M. B. SHERRILL, SECRETARY-TREASURER

OF ORGANIZATION. STORY STATES FT. PIERCE IS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS-

AND ORGANIZATION IS ORGANIZED TO KEEP COUNTRY WHITE, AS AN ANSWER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
TO NAACP, AND AS AN ANSWER TO COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH CONTROLS THE

PRESS. SHERRILL CLAIMED OVER ONE MILLION MEMBERS IN GROUP AND

THAT HENRY WILLIAM PYLE, MEMPHIS, TENN. IS HEAD OF GROUP. SHERRILL

STATES ORGANIZATION IS SEPARATE AND IS NOT CONNECTED WITH KLAN. FT. PIERCE

TRIBUNE REPORTER CLAIMED TO CASSENS HE WAS SHOWN BOOKS AND RECORDS

AND THAT EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTYNINE THOUSAND DOLLARS IS DEPOSITED TO

CREDIT OF PRO-SOUTHERNERS IN FT. PIERCE BANK. INVESTIGATION CON-

TINUING AND ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO SECURE INFORMANT COVERAGE. ON

WEEKS

END

ACK PLS

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Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-96/05-28645-18

CC: MR. BELMONT  
AND SUPERVISOR  
FBI INTEL. DIVISION

DEC 22 1955

DEC 14 8 57 AM '55



Mr. Williams

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

SAC, Miami (105-677)

December 20, 1955

105-28645-18

Director, FBI (105-28645)

RECORDED-96

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

EX-125

Re Miami teletype dated December 13, 1955, in which it was stated that in connection with press inquiries M. B. Sherrill claimed there are over one million members in this organization and that Henry William Pyle of Memphis, Tennessee, is head of the group. Also a newspaper reporter of the "Fort Pierce Tribune" claimed he was shown books and records and that \$839,000 is deposited to the credit of the captioned organization in a Fort Pierce bank.

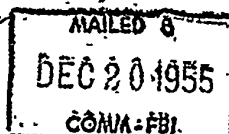
By letter dated July 7, 1955, Miami advised there was no indication of the captioned organization existing as an organized unit and that it appeared only to be a name used by Sherrill to distribute literature and to keep up his Klan activities. Miami advised the case was being closed and that any pertinent activities would be reported in connection with the Knights of the Kuklos Klan. Subsequently the case on the Knights of the Kuklos Klan was closed inasmuch as Miami advised the organization was defunct.

Miami is instructed to reinstitute immediately an investigation of Pro-Southerners in order to determine whether it is active and if so the extent of its activities. Attempts should be made to prove or disprove allegations in referenced teletype concerning the money deposited to the account of this organization in a Fort Pierce bank. The Bureau should be promptly furnished the results of your investigation.

By letter dated November 30, 1955, captioned [redacted] PSI, the Memphis Office advised there are nine known groups of Pro-Southerners existing in Memphis. The Memphis Office is instructed to submit a report on the captioned organization setting forth all information available concerning this group since the submission of the report of Special Agent Joseph Kearney, Jr., dated February 25, 1955. The investigation of this organization by the Memphis Office should be conducted so long as this organization is active.

2cc SAC, Memphis (105-98)

CFW:d1j  
(6)



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
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Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

MIAMI

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/18/56</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/13, 14, 30/55 1/4/56</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>DOUGLASS E. WENDEL DEW:FHC</b>
TITLE <b>PRO-SOUTHERNERS</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>Reporters of <u>Ft. Pierce, Fla. Tribune</u>, a daily newspaper, interviewed M. B. <u>SHERRILL</u>, Ft. Pierce, Fla. 12/13, 14/55. SHERRILL reportedly stated headquarters of "Pro-Southerners" in Ft. Pierce; that organization has membership of 987,000; and cash in bank of \$839,000. SHERRILL stated bulk of membership in Miss., Ala., and Tenn. and organization did not advocate rough treatment of Negroes, but domination of Negroes through political and economical means. SHERRILL stated newspapers in U. S. dominated by CP. Check of all banks in Ft. Pierce, Fla., negative as to any funds in name of SHERRILL or "Pro-Southerners".</p>			
DETAILS <u>AT FT. PIERCE, FLORIDA</u> <p>Two reporters for the <u>Ft. Pierce, Florida Tribune</u>, a daily newspaper, namely, [redacted] and [redacted], were interviewed on December 14, 1955 by SA DOUGLASS E. WENDEL.</p> <p>[redacted] stated that he interviewed M. B. <u>SHERRILL</u> at SHERRILL's residence, <u>Sunrise Boulevard, Ft. Pierce, Florida</u>.</p>			
AGENCY: <u>RAB-06, G-2, ONE, OSI</u> REQ. REC'D DATE FORW. <u>2/1/56</u> HOW FORW. <u>PS</u> BY <u>Qu/p</u>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>C. W. [redacted]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>105-28645-19</b> <b>RECORDED - 14</b> <b>INDEXED - 14</b> <b>EX-125</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>COPIES NEXT PAGE</b> <b>3 - Miami (105-677)</b>		<b>16 JAN 19 1956</b>	

PROPERTY OF FBI--This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

**71 FEB 2 1956** ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

MM 105-677

COPIES THIS REPORT

- 6 - Bureau (105-28645) (RM)
- 1 - ONI, 6th ND, Charleston, S.C., (RM)
- 1 - OSI, Mac Dill AFB, Tampa, Fla. (RM)
- 1 - G2 Hdqtrs., 3rd Army, Ft. Mc Pherson, Ga. (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Memphis (105-98) (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Mobile (Info) (RM)
- 1 - New Orleans (Info) (RM)
- 3 - Miami (105-677)

after having received an inquiry concerning SHERRILL and the "Pro-Southerners" organization from the Memphis Commercial Appeal, a newspaper. [ ] stated that SHERRILL told him that the "Pro-Southerners" had approximately 1,000,000 members, that they had cash funds in the amount of \$839,000, and that the great majority of this cash was in the St. Lucie Bank. [ ] stated that SHERRILL showed him books and records reportedly for the "Pro-Southerners" organization and also what he believed to be deposit slips for funds deposited in banks in Ft. Pierce, Miami, and Melbourne, Florida. [ ] recalled that he saw bank documents for the Florida National Bank, Ft. Pierce; the Miami National Bank, Miami Florida; and the Bank of Melbourne and Trust Company of Melbourne, Florida. b6 b7C

[ ] stated that SHERRILL indicated that the bulk of the membership of the "Pro-Southerners" organization was in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee and that the organization was formed to politically battle the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. SHERRILL told [ ] that "no rough stuff" was to be used against the Negroes, but that the organization sought to control the domination of the Negroes through political means. According to [ ], SHERRILL stated that the "Pro-Southerners" was incorporated in the State of Florida and that the dues for this organization amounted to \$2.00 per member. The \$2.00, according to SHERRILL, was to be divided \$1.00 for

FLA. the local organization recruiting the member, and \$1.00 was to be forwarded to SHERRILL as the national secretary - treasurer of the organization. SHERRILL did tell [ ] that there were two local organizers in the Ft. Pierce, Florida area and named these individuals as WILBUR O'STEEN and JOHN PYLE. SHERRILL declined to comment to [ ] on the manner in which the "Pro-Southerners" organization planned to keep white supremacy other than to state that it was to be done politically. FLA.

MEMBERS

FLA. [ ] of the Ft. Pierce Tribune, advised that he interviewed SHERRILL at SHERRILL's residence on December 14, 1955 and that SHERRILL claimed to him that there were 1600 members of the "Pro-Southerners" organization in the Florida counties of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie. SHERRILL told [ ] that there were 987,000 members of the organization and the organization was incorporated in the State of Georgia. He claimed to [ ] that the organization had national meetings in Ft. Pierce and further stated that a national meeting was planned shortly after the first of the year in West Palm Beach, Florida. SHERRILL told [ ] that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee would be in Ft. Pierce in the near future. SHERRILL specifically advised [ ] that the "Pro-Southerners" was not affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan or any similar organization and did not believe in any strong arm tactics to enforce its general ideas of segregation. SHERRILL indicated that the organization was to be a political power and that the manner in which segregation would be strengthened would be by both political and economical domination of the Negro race.

MEMBER- PRO-SOUTHERNERS

[ ] stated that SHERRILL advised him that the "Pro-Southerners" organization was not in favor of the leaders of either of the national political parties of the United States, inasmuch as the leaders of both, the Republican and Democratic Parties, did not share the views of the "Pro-Southerners" as to segregation. SHERRILL declined to discuss any of the by-laws or the constitution

MM 106-677

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of the "Pro-Southerners" organization with [ ] and he would not furnish the names of the officers of the organization, nor any data concerning these officers. SHERRILL told [ ] that all records of the "Pro-Southerners" organization were maintained in an office in downtown Ft. Pierce, but he would not advise the location of this particular office. During the conversation with [ ], SHERRILL told [ ] that all the newspapers in the United States were run by the Communist Party, but would not enlarge on this particular remark. He stated that a great field of members of the "Pro-Southerners" were retired individuals, but again did not state his reason for so saying. SHERRILL told [ ] that the "Pro-Southerners" organization was to be an answer to the Communist control of the press and also in answer to the NAACP. He stated that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Memphis, Tennessee was the head of the organization.

On December 14, 1955 T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that there is no account at the St. Lucie County Bank in the name of the "Pro-Southerners" or in the name of M. B. SHERRILL. He further stated that there is no account in the name of the Ku Klux Klan or any similar titled organization.

On December 14, 1955 T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, stated that none of the above named organizations or SHERRILL, individually, had any accounts at the Florida Bank, Ft. Pierce.

It is noted that the Ku Klux Klan is an organization designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

MM 105-677

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished to each of the following offices for information purposes inasmuch as it was claimed that the great majority of the membership of the "Pro-Southerners" organization is centered in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; Memphis, Mobile, New Orleans, and Birmingham.

INFORMANTS

Miami Confidential Informant T-1 is [redacted]  
[redacted] St. Lucie County Bank.

Miami Confidential Informant T-2 is [redacted]  
[redacted] Florida Bank, Ft. Pierce.

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report and T-symbols have been utilized only in those instances where identity must be concealed.

LEADS

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Will conduct investigation at the Miami National Bank in an effort to locate any bank account in this particular bank in the name of the "Pro-Southerners", Ku Klux Klan, or in the name of M. B. SHERRILL.

AT MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

Will conduct investigation at the Bank of Melbourne and Trust Company, similar to that set forth in the lead at the Miami National Bank.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MM 105-677

AT FT. PIERCE, FLORIDA

Will report any additional contacts made by reporters with M. B. SHERRILL and other information coming to the attention of the Miami Office.

REFERENCES

Report of Special Agent MELVIN MC RAE JETT dated January 4, 1955, at Miami.

Miami teletype to Bureau dated December 13, 1955.

Bureau letter to Miami dated December 20, 1955.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONT'D

Mr. Williams

SAC, Miami (105-677)

January 25, 1956

Director, FBI (105-28645)

PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ReBulet January 20, 1955.

Miami and Memphis are instructed to furnish the information requested in reBulet. Reports should be submitted to reach the Bureau no later than February 5, 1956. In the event you fail to meet this deadline, explanations will be requested.

2cc - Memphis (105-98)

CEW:prh

(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-20-2010 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdh

RECORDED-99 105-28645-20

JAN 26 1956

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Encl detached FROM ME 110

TO: A. H. Belmont

FROM: W. C. Sullivan

1/12/54

MEMORANDUM

PRO-SOUTHERNERS

February 3, 1955

The organization known as the Pro-Southerners is reported to have been founded by H. B. Sherrill of Fort Pierce, Florida, to replace the White Circle League of America in Florida. The White Circle League of America was chartered in the State of Illinois in November, 1949, for the purpose of education as to customs, civic and social standards, and charitable purposes among its members, the maintenance of schools, and the dissemination of information and literature appertaining thereto and to safeguard the property of its members. The White Circle League of America was formed by Joseph Beauharnais, who was found guilty of circulating literature tending to defame a race in the Chicago Municipal Court in 1950. The state charter of the White Circle League of America was revoked in June of 1950 on grounds that the literature of the League was "highly inflammable and would cause conflict among the races."

Sherrill, who founded the Pro-Southerners, allegedly stated that he had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and that he planned to reform the Klan in Florida under the name of Pro-Southerners. According to Sherrill, the new organization would dispense with public meetings and public parades.

In organizing the new group, Sherrill is reported to have stated that his plan was to "talk soft now and build up strength to act hard later." Although Sherrill intended to admit anyone to membership in the organization, he is reported to have said that he would later screen the membership and select those who could be depended upon to "run all the niggers and Jews out of the South."

Another organization which has aims and principles similar to the Pro-Southerners, the National Patrick Henry Organization, Inc., is reported to have issued a charter to Sherrill to form the Pro-Southerners.

Sherrill, who is reported to be the Secretary-Manager of the Pro-Southerners, has spearheaded the activities in distributing mimeographed letters to the people of the South.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
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Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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In one of these letters it was stated that the white people of the South must be either for or against segregation, that no one could "sit on the fence," and that those for it must organize and make their will recognized. The letter also stated that the people should organize under the Pro-Southerners and see that only true southern men are elected to public office, to school boards, to state offices, and to the United States Congress. The letter urged that they "put a stop to nine black-robed men who are our servants, not our lawmakers, making laws that force racial mixing against our will."

Another mimeographed letter under the caption "Dear Fellow Southerners" pointed out that the South does not force its segregation ideas on the "Yankees" and that the North should respect the rights of the South to control their own racial questions. This letter alleged that in the South, both races had mutual respect for the other until "the Democratic Party was captured by the Communists, radicals, and liberals, all of the North." It further alleged that this was Stalin's plan to create a revolution in the South and create a black democracy. Sherrill is also reported to have distributed a mimeographed sheet captioned "The Pro-Southerners and What They Stand For." According to this sheet the Pro-Southerners believe that only a southern organization, led by southerners, could solve the racial problems of the South. This same sheet stated that the Southern Democrats were leaning too far towards creeping Communism.

According to the above piece of propaganda, the organization wants the southern states to outlaw the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Anti-Defamation League of B'NAI B'RITH. It further alleged that a "Yankee Congressman," Harold Velde, (Republican - Illinois) was branding all southerners who want to retain segregation as racists, bigots and hate mongers.

Sherrill is reported to have stated that the Pro-Southerners would be an organization that would be a power in politics and would send their own men and women to fill state and Federal offices "with the fear of God in them and a prayer on their lips to be able and worthy of the white people who sent them to do the job of housecleaning that has to be done before the South and America can be free of the enemies who now have control of all state and Federal Governments in America." Sherrill further stated that "we

will have the strongest organization on earth when the people wake up and see that they must take sides and join us to save themselves."

The founder of the Pro-Southerners is also credited with saying that the white people should realize what they are faced with and should help stop it before it gets "too big for us to stop without bloodshed and revolution in the United States, or for each southern or southwestern state seceding the Union, which we will gladly do if we have to--that would stop all wars, all income tax, all other Federal taxes, all Federal supervision and meddling and we, in the South and Southwest--24 states in all who have said they would secede if necessary to put a stop to Federal meddling in our business."

The application blank for membership in the Pro-Southerners states that the applicant has read and understands the purpose of the Pro-Southerners, who are working to preserve "our Southern segregated way of life." According to the application blank, the membership fee is \$2 for dues and an additional \$2 for a publication known as "The Political Reporter." The application blank reflects that the applicant should "Write M. B. Sherrill, Secretary-Manager, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida."

In another one of the organization's propaganda items entitled "Why Should White Americans Stand Still" there was another tirade against the Negro race and laudatory comments regarding the Ku Klux Klan for having reestablished white supremacy following the Civil War. The author of one article stated that he would personally like to see the Ku Klux Klan ride again in every city, town, and hamlet in America and would also like to see a new political party established which would be dedicated to white supremacy.

The Pro-Southerners exhibited opposition to the United Nations in a printed petition which was captioned "Declaration of Independence from the United Nations." The petition carried the following quotation: "I hereby declare my independence of the United Nations and all its agents and agencies. I am here and now out of it. I will never recognize its authorities; never bow to its power. I will never serve under its flag or any flag but Old Glory. I hold that any American citizen who gives allegiance to the United Nations is a traitor to this sovereign republic, whose authority is and must remain supreme and undivided over all things American. I urge all of my fellow Americans to show their loyalty to the Constitution of the United States by joining me in this declaration." (105-28645-11)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FBI  
(3-9-54)

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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REPORT MADE AT <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/3/56</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/6,7,11,12,27,29,30/55; 1/1,6,9,12,17,19,24,26,27/56</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH H. KEARNEY MEN</b>
TITLE <b>PRO-SOUTHERNERS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

The Pro-Southerners known to be active since 1954 and M. B. SHERRILL, Fort Pierce, Florida, and HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Memphis, Tennessee, active therein since inception. Pro-Southerners recently granted charter by Tennessee Secretary of State, Nashville, Tennessee, National Constitution and By-Laws as well as By-Laws of Shelby County group set out. Meeting being held regularly by various Pro-Southerner groups in Memphis; and membership in Memphis unknown, although financial report of PYLE indicates 964 members on 12/15/55. Names of National Officers as taken from Pro-Southerners letterhead set out although informant states their function is nominal and PYLE is the undisputed leader so far as Memphis groups are concerned. PYLE claims Pro-Segregation Organizations in various southern states as part of Pro-Southerner but operate under different names in each state. M. B. SHERRILL apparently has only the title of Secretary-Manager and may be losing out completely. Leaders, Shelby County groups identified. Pro-Southerner activities in all phases of opposition to integration of races. Have appeared in mass at Memphis Park Commission Office to combat non-segregated recreational facilities. Met with Tennessee Governor FRANK CLEMENT and plan on conferring with Mayor and Chief of Police Memphis PD, Shelby County Sheriff and local Health Department. Information regarding the relationship between Pro-Southerners and the Ku Klux Klan, Pioneers of Tennessee, and Federation for Constitutional Government set out.

- P. - \*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NO.
<u>I. ORIGIN, SCOPE AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES</u>	2-21
A. ORIGIN	2
B. INCORPORATION	2
C. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL GROUP	2-12
D. BY-LAWS OF SHELBY COUNTY CORPORATION	12-15
E. MEETINGS	15, 16
F. MEMBERSHIP	16-17
G. FUNDS	17-21
H. SCOPE OF PRO-SOUTHERNERS	21
<u>II. OFFICERS</u>	21-25
A. NATIONAL OFFICERS	21-24
B. SHELBY COUNTY OFFICERS	24
C. FACTIONALISM	25
<u>III. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</u>	25-26
<u>IV. ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM</u>	26-29
<u>V. CONNECTION WITH OTHER GROUPS</u>	29-31

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- 2 - Memphis (105-98)

ME # 105-98

DETAILS: Instant investigation was opened in the Memphis Office on the basis of the activities of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, the Organizer and National Chairman thereof. PYLE formerly published the Political Reporter, a bitter anti-Negro, anti-Jewish, anti-Governmental hate sheet. Reports have been previously submitted reflecting PYLE'S activities in connection with the Political Reporter. This publication is not known to have been issued since June, 1955, and PYLE has been confining his activities to the promotion of the Pro-Southerners.

I. ORIGIN, SCOPE AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES

A. ORIGIN

Memphis Confidential Informant T-1, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 17, 1954, that M. B. ~~SHERRILL~~, Fort Pierce, Florida, was no longer distributing literature issued by the White Circle League of America and was at that time trying to establish an organization in the South under the name of the Pro-Southerners. Informant continued that the co-partner of ~~SHERRILL~~ in the Pro-Southerners was HARRY WILLIAM PYLE of Memphis. He also noted that PYLE was in close contact with WILLIAM J. ~~GRIFFIN~~ of Tampa, Florida, who organized the Association of Florida Klans during the summer of 1952.

B. INCORPORATION

On April 13, 1955, SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD was advised by MISS [REDACTED], Clerk, Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, that the Pro-Southerners were not incorporated in the State of Tennessee at that time. b6 b7C

On January 17, 1956, Memphis Confidential Informant T-2, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that WAYNE T. ~~DEWEES~~, Memphis Attorney, had obtained a charter of incorporation for the National Pro-Southerners Organization from the Secretary of State in Nashville.

C. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL GROUP

On January 24, 1956, T-2, supra, made available a copy of the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Pro-Southerners, which are as follows:

ME #. 105-98

"CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
of the PRO-SOUTHERNERS

"ARTICLE I. - NAME

"Section 1: The name of this organization shall be Pro-Southerners.

"ARTICLE II -- OBJECT

"Section 1: To preserve the heritage, dignity, customs, culture, purity and social edicts of the White Race in America by maintaining the time honored custom of seperation of the races.

"Section 2: To encourage among the members closer personal acquaintance and friendly spirit of mutual co-operation and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the members and to assist in any matter pertaining to thw elfare and advancement of the members and for the attainment of the highest order of American Citizenship.

"Section 3: To unite fraternally, socially and mutually with friendship and harmony for the uplifting, enjoyment and recreational entertainment of members and guests.

"Section 4: To foster and cultivate the educational and business relations of its members, to broaden the educational and business relations of its members; to broaden their education and profession and to improve their education and profession and to improve their standards of citizenship.

"Section 5: To support its program through education, enlightenment, encouragement and inspiration, and to publish, distribute and circulate literature, pamphlets, newspapers; and by public assemblies, giving information to the people and the membership of this corporation to the end that we might sway opinion in favor of race segregation, and through maintaing lobbyist in all the state legislatures and in the Congress of the United States securing legislation supporting segregation.

"Section 6: As incidental to said objects and to facilitate the same, it is the purpose of the Pro-Southerners to establish and maintain a local group or groups of the membership, to secure memberships in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Pro-Southerners and to establish and maintain other group\_ throughout America.

"Section 7: To organize schools of such nature and character to educate and enlighten the membership and the children of the members.

"Section 8: To support the Constitution of the United States of

ME # 105-98

" America as it was originally intended by the Founding Fathers. To fight the insidious influence of Communism and One Worldism.

" Section 9: It shall be the purpose of this organization to support all State's Rights movements that are out to retain the original intent of the Constitution of the United States.

#### "ARTICLE III - - Membership

"Section 1. Any White Citizen, 18 years of age or over, who subscribes to objectives, principles and aims of this organization, and is of good moral character, may become a member after being approved by the Local Group officers.

"Section 2: The first years dues must accompany the application for membership.

"Section 3: Every applicant for membership must state upon his application for membership that he will support the Constitutions of the United States and the State in which he resides, and also that he is not now a member of the Communist party or other subversive organization.

#### "ARTICLE IV. - ORGANIZATION

"Section 1: This organization shall be composed of a National Office which shall have charge of all affairs of the Pro-Southerners, Act as the organizers and issue all Local Group and County Division Charters. They shall have general supervision over all the organization as is provided in this Constitution.

Section 2: Groups shall be local chartered units and they shall hold meetings in the name of the Pro-Southerners. Have all the rights as given in this Constitution and by-Laws. They may also make up by-laws for the purpose of outlining their own work as a Group.

"Section 3: Where four or more Groups are chartered in any County, they may ask for a County Division Charter and the National Officers must issue a Charter. This County Division shall have such powers as is granted to them by the groups affiliating, and they must also select two delegates to such County Division.

#### "ARTICLE V - Charters

"Section 1: Any group of five or more citizens who are of the White Race and of good moral character may apply for a charter to establish a local Group and if the Executive Board shall find them worthy of membership they shall issue them a charter.



ME # 105-98

"Section 2: When four groups of any County request a Charter, the National Executive Board shall issue it without protest.

"Section 3: Each Group may make its own by-laws, providing they are approved by the National Executive Board and do not conflict with this Constitution and By-Laws.

"Section 4: If local Groups or County Divisions wish to incorporate, so that they may own real estate, they first must get the approval of the National Executive Board.

"Section 5: Local Groups shall have the right to take up all local problems as given in this Constitution. They may also join with other organized bodies in furthering the aims of the Pro-Southerners.

"Section 6: In case a charter of a Group is revoked all property of such Group shall become the property of the National Organization.

"Section 7: Each Group shall be under the direct control of the National Executive Board. Only the National Executive Board shall have the power to revoke a Charter.

"Section 8: The only causes that will forfeit a Charter shall be the failure to meet regular or for promoting objects other than given in this Constitution and By-laws.

"Section 9: Each local Group shall make weekly reports on the members taken in and of dues collected and remit the amount due the National Office with such report.

"Section 10: Each local Group shall keep a record of all its members, and also a record of its meetings upon a minute book. This membership record and minute book shall be open for inspection by the National Executive Board or one of its agents at any reasonable time.

"Section 11: The officers of a local Group shall be a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer, a Sergeant-at-Arms. In large Groups they may have a Secretary and a Treasurer instead of the Secretary-Treasurer. And in large Groups the Treasurer shall be Bonded by an approved Bonding Company.

"Section 12: All literature issued that bears the imprinture of the Pro-Southerners must have the approval of the National Executive Board before it can be given out for public use.

ME # 105-98

"Section 13: The application of any Candidate for public office shall be held over until after election.

"Section 14: The National Organization shall not be responsible for any debts incurred by a local Group.

"Section 15: All funds of local Groups shall be banked in the name of the Pro-Southerners and the number of their charter.

"ARTICLE VI. NATIONAL OFFICERS"

"Section 1: The Officers of this organization shall be a National Chairman, Vice Chairman, and seven directors with the Vice Chairman acting as one of the directors, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

"Section 2: The Officers of this organization shall be known as the National Executive Board and they shall administer all the affairs of the National Office.

"Section 3: Between meetings of the National Executive Board the National Chairman shall manage the affairs of the organization. He shall hire such organizers as are needed, employ such help as needed, and supervise the work of the organization.

"Section 4: The Executive Board shall meet quarterly or at the request of the National Chairman.

"Section 5: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded in such sum as the National Executive Board shall demand. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a true record of all proceedings of the Executive Board, including a financial record of all monies received and all disbursements. Conduct all correspondence and file all correspondence that the Executive Board shall be able to refer to them at any time. The Secretary-Treasurer shall give a receipt for all monies received and keep a carbon copy of the same. They shall also make a financial report to each meeting of the Executive Board.

"Section 6: The National Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the National Executive Board, Sign all check upon funds of the Organization and have full authority between meetings of the Executive Board, but he shall not have authority to bind this organization to any debts or obligations unless given that power by the Executive Board, other than that of hiring organizers and workers for the organizations use.

"Section 7: Should a vacancy occur, the National Executive Board shall have the power to appoint someone to fill such vacancy until the next election when the membership shall vote to fill such office.

ME # 105-98

"Section 8: The National Executive Board shall set up special funds for the work of the organization and when such funds are provided for they shall not be used for any other purpose.

"Section 9: The National Executive Board shall provide all application blanks, cards and all forms and sell them to local groups at cost. When such forms are provided no other form shall be permitted.

"Section 10: The National Executive Board may retain an attorney to advise with them, and when such is done such attorney shall be paid from funds of the National Organization.

"Section 11: The first National Officers shall serve from the time this Constitution is adopted until 1958. From that time on election of officers shall be as provided in the By-laws of this Constitution.

"Section 12: The office of the National Executive Board shall be at a place provided by them, and where the National Chairman and the National Secretary shall also have their offices.

"Section 13: At the expiration of the term of office, by termination or otherwise, of any officer, they shall turn over to his successor all monies, property, papers, records and books belonging to the organization.

#### "ARTICLE VII: Income

"Section 1: Each member shall pay to the National Office such dues as the By-Laws prescribe and in the manner prescribed.

"Section 2: Income may be derived as provided in the By-laws or by action of the National Executive Board from sources other than membership dues and literature sales.

#### "ARTICLE VIII - Finance and Accounting

"Section 1. The fiscal years of the Pro-Southerners shall end with the thirty-first day of December each year.

"Section 2: The National Executive Board shall cause to be installed and maintained an efficient system of accounts.

#### "ARTICLE IX - Amendments

"Section 1. This Constitution or the Articles of Incorporation of the Pro-Southerners or both may be amended upon written request of 10 or more Groups. If such a request is made and seconded by three

ME # 105-98.

"or more Groups the National Executive Board shall place the amendment upon a ballot and mail a copy to the Secretary of each Group. From there on each Group shall hold an election and a return made to the Executive Board of those voting yes or no on the amendment. When all ballots are returned, the National Executive Board shall appoint five members from the closest groups to canvass the returns and to announce the decision.

"BY-LAWS PRO-SOUTHERNERS

" National Group

"ARTICLE I: Membership and Dues

"Section 1 -- There shall be two classes of membership in the Pro-Southerners. The first class shall be all males who shall pay into the National Office the sum of two dollars per year as dues, and One and not more than two dollars into the local Group as local dues. The second class shall be made up of the wives or mothers of paid members and these wives or mothers shall have all voting rights and rights to hold local or national office.

"Section 2. Dues for the current year are due on the first of January and a member does not pay up his dues by June 30th, he is suspended. A wife or mother is suspended when her husband or son fails to stay in good standing.

"Section 3. -- Each local Group must report within a week all National Dues collected and such dues as are collected must be remitted with such report.

"Section 4 -- The National Executive Board shall Charter a membership at-large Group for scattered membership or for those who do not want to be identified with any group for fear they may be boycotted by subversives. Such dues in this Group shall be Three Dollars per year and the National Chairman and National Vice Chairman shall act as officers for this special Chartered Group.

"Section 5: Candidates for membership shall make a written application upon the form provided. Such candidates, after being approved by a committee shall be enrolled upon the membership books of the Group and a card issued to them. At least one years dues, both National and Group must accompany the applicant's application.

"Section 6: Collections may be taken up at public meetings conducted by the National Executive or one of its agents. However, no assessments shall be levied on the membership.

ME. # 105-98

"Section 7: The National Executive Board shall have the authority to appeal to the membership for funds for specific purposes provided the Board shall give a full explanation as to the use of such funds.

#### "ARTICLE II. Group Membership Meetings

"Section 1: Group membership meetings shall be held at least twice a month, but weekly meetings are recommended. The hour of the meeting shall be left up to the Group.

"Section 2: Group Membership meetings shall be conducted in accordance with "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER" or some similar Rules.

"Section 3: The following shall be the Order of Business of all local Groups and County Divisions.

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Roll Call of Officers.                                 | 9. New Business.                 |
| 2. Prayer.  | 10. Unfinished Business.         |
| 3. Reading the minutes.                                   | 11. Introduction of New Members. |
| 4. Reading Communications.                                | 12. Good of the Order.           |
| 5. Reading applications and appointing committee on same. |                                  |
| 6. Reports of Special Committees.                         |                                  |
| 7. Reports of Standing Committees.                        |                                  |
| 8. Reports of Delegates to County Division.               |                                  |

"Section 4: Any member suspended for non payment of dues can be refused membership again.

#### "ARTICLE III. Flags.

"Section 1. The flag of our America shall be used at all meetings, a Stars and Bars flag of the Confederacy may be used.

#### "ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS

"Section 1. These By-laws may be amended by the National Executive Board by a two-third vote of the Board.

#### "ARTICLE V. Election of National Officers.

"Section 1. The present officers shall serve or hold office until July, 1958. Thereafter the term of office shall be for a period of two years. They may be re-elected to fill the same office or to another office.

"Section 2. The election of officer shall be by a referendum vote. All

ME # 105-98

"members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. Ballots shall be provided by the National Secretary-Treasurer, after they have been approved by the National Executive Board, and sent to the Secretary of each Group. In case of members-at-large, a ballot shall be sent to each one by the National Secretary-Treasurer.

"Section 3: Nominations for National Officers shall be made by a Group or a member may secure 30 names upon a petition and have his name placed upon the ballot.

"Section 5: The National Executive Board shall make up a ballot with the names of all candidates nominated by the Groups or by petition listed thereon. No ballot shall be opened or counted until one month from the time they were sent out. They shall be opened and canvassed by the National Executive Board in the presents of all interested parties and three judges who shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

"Section 6: The candidates who receives the largest vote shall be declared elected.

#### "ARTICLE VI. National Executive Board members pay.

"Section 1: The National Executive Board shall pay to such members as serve full time a sum equal to that paid to Executives who do similar work, and they shall also provide for expences of such officials when away from home on duties of the organization.

"Section 2: The National Executive Board shall pay itself for time to attend Board meetings and for expences incurred in going to and from such meetings.

"Section 3: The National Executive Board may meet anywhere and it may hold closed door meetings.

#### ARTICLE VII. County Divisions.

"Section 1: As the County Division is a creature of the Local Groups, it shall have only the powers granted it by the Groups of the County in which it serves. It may have by-laws, but such by-laws must not conflict with this Constitution or these by-laws, and such by-laws must have the approval of each Group before it becomes the law of that County Division.

"Section 2: A County Division membership shall be made up of two delegates from each group and they must meet at least once a month.

"Section 3: County Divisions may if the Groups approve collect such

ME # 105-98

"per capita tax as their by-laws provide, and they may hire such workers as are needed if they have the funds to pay for the same.

"Section 4: No County Division shall place any assessment upon the member, but they may call for donations to pay for some special fund program.

"Section 5: The County Divisions shall have bonded officers if such officers hold funds of the Division.

"Section 6: The Rules of order of a County Division shall be the same as that of a local Group.

"Section 7: County Divisions shall have no authority to issue any Group Charters, nor shall they be permitted to interfere in the issuing of Group Charters. As harmony must prevail.

"Section 8: The National Executive Board shall appoint such committees, as they may need from their own ranks or from any Chartered Group. They shall also provide for an auditing committee and have their books audited once a year, and such auditing committee shall make their report to the Secretary of each Chartered Group.

#### "ARTICLE VIII Conventions

"Section 1: The National Executive Board shall call National Conventions when and if necessary. When such conventions are called they shall limit the number of Delegates from each local Group that may attend.

"Section 2: If for some reason the Membership should feel that a National Convention should be called and the Executive Board has refused such a call for a Convention, then the Members may call upon their local Groups to send out a petition to other Groups asking that they second a call for a Convention. If five Groups second the call the National Executive Board must call such a Convention and within one month from the day the petitions were filed.

#### "ARTICLE IX. Safeguarding the Funds.

"Section 1. All large or unusual expenditures shall be authorized by the National Executive Board before commitment in regard to them shall be made.

"Section 2: All funds of the Pro-Southerners must be deposited in the name of the organization in such banks as designated by the National Executive Board.

ME # 105-98

" ARTICLE X

" Non-Violence and Non-Boycott

"Section 1: The National Executive Board shall not permit any motion to be made or any speech made at its meeting that advocates violence or boycotting of anyone or of any business concern.

"Section 2: The Local Groups shall not permit any member to make a motion or having it seconded at any meeting that would lead to a boycott of any firm or individual. Nor shall any Group permit a motion to be made to commit violence. Nor shall any local Group permit speeches or talks that would create violence to be made at any of their meetings. "

D. BY-LAWS OF SHELBY COUNTY GROUP

On December 12, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that a meeting of the Executive Board of the Shelby County, Tennessee Chapter of the Pro-Southerners was held in the office of Executive Board member of Dr. T. R. MONTGOMERY, Hickman Building, Memphis, Tenn December 11, 1955, and the by-laws were adopted. Informant made available a rough draft copy thereof which he stated may be changed slightly when printed in their final form, although they were considered as set out hereinafter:

"By-Laws.  
ARTICLE I - Name

"Section I.

"The name of this organization shall be known as the Pro-Southerners, Shelby County Division; and shall transact all business under the name The Pro-Southerners.

" ARTICLE II Purpose

"Section II

"The purpose of this organization is to keep the races segregated. This organization shall not take part in any other issue.

"ARTICLE III - Membership

"Section I

"Any white Aryans 21 years of age or older are eligible for member-



ME # 105-98

"Application for membership will be passed on by Group Chairman and Group Secretary before membership cards are issued.

"Membership is determined after application are passed by foresaid persons and membership dues are paid as herein provided

" ARTICLE IV - DUES

"Section 1.

"Dues are \$2.00 per year, wives are free.

"ARTICLE V. Meetings

"Section 1. There shall be at least 2 meetings each year for all members. A notice of this meeting shall be mailed or handed to each member at least seven days before the date thereof.

"Section 2. 5 members shall constitute a quorum - Group meeting

"Section 3 - each member shall have one vote

"Section 4. The order of Business at the meeting shall be - Roll Call - Prayer - Reading of minutes - Report of Directors - Report of Treasurer - Report of Social Committee - Unfinished business - New business - Adjournment

"Section 5 - Rules to govern order at a meeting shall be Parliamentary Procedure

"Section 6. - District mass meeting shall be held at least once a month.

"Section 6 - Group meetings should be held at least once a week

"Section 7 - Board of Directors shall meet at least once a month -

"ARTICLE VI - Board of Directors

"Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of 18 men elected as follows: For the purpose of the By laws - Selection of Board of Director will serve for the coming year, etc as was selected Dec 4th 1955.

"Section II The Board of Directors shall consist of a County Chairman ~~and 3 Vice Chairmen~~ 3 Vice Chairmen. Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary Assistant Secretary, Treasurer - City District Chairman & County District Chairman and 2 Social Chairmen.

ME # 105-98

"6 directors elected for one year - 4 Directors elected for 2 yrs.  
8 Directors for 3 yrs.

"Section III The Board of Directors shall have general management of the affairs, funds and record of this organization. It shall be their duty to act upon any objectable members of this organization - after said objectable has been censured for minor offense; employ such help as needed; fill vacancies in this organization; they can by 2/3 vote of the majority of Board of Directors will remove any member and to perform such duties as the members from time to time authorize.

#### "ARTICLE VII - Funds

"Section I - The funds of this organization shall consist of membership dues or contribution passed on by Board of Directors.

"Section II - 1.00 of each 2.00 dues goes to the national headquarters; 25¢ of same said dues stays in the individual group; 75¢ of said dues goes into the county funds.

"Section III - Funds will be deposited in Banks with 2 signature required on each check. 3 signature will be placed on file with the bank as being authorize to sign checks for organization.

"Section IV. Group will make request & have them granted to Board of Directors for any funds they may need at anytime.

#### "ARTICLE VIII - Treasurer

"Section I Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds - books of account - and sign all checks. He shall furnish a bond of faithful performance of his duties, in such an amount as the Board of Directors shall prescribe.

"Section II In event of his disability the duties shall be performed by persons duly appointed by the Board of Directors.

#### "ARTICLE IX - District Chairman

"Section I District Chairman shall have charge of his District in regard to: appointing someone in charge of the groups in his District; he shall see to their being one meeting a month for all in his district. He shall make reports to the other members of the Board of Directors;

ME # 105-98

"ARTICLE X   Publicity

"Section 1   No press statement shall be given out without the consent of the Board of Directors.

"ARTICLE X - AMENDMENT

"Section I - These By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the majority of the Board of Directors.

"ARTICLE XI - Officers

"Section I - Officers shall be the Board of Directors; each District so desiring shall have a District Co-Chairman & secretary; each group shall have a chairman, tresurer, & secretary\_

"ARTICLE XII

"The Pro-Southerners by name shall take no part in violence or threats or boycotting"

E.   MEETINGS OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On July 25, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-3, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that she had received a letter on the stationery of the Pro-Southerners inviting her to a meeting at the home of HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, 3601 South Lloyd Circle, Memphis, on any Friday night.

On August 4, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-4, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on that date he had found a handbill placed at his front door inviting him to a meeting at PYLE'S home on August 6, 1955.

On November 22, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-5, an individual who is acquainted with HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, and who has furnished some reliable information and other information which has not been determined to be either reliable or otherwise, advised that he attended the meeting of the Pro-Southerners at the El Rotta Restaurant, 3000 South Third Street, Memphis, Tennessee, on November 21, 1955. Informant advised that he had been invited by PYLE to the meeting; that approximately 60 people were present and that HARRY PYLE served as Chairman and was the principal speaker. He stated that PYLE contended that racial integra-

ME # 105-98

tion in the public schools would lead to the demoralization of the white race and that mixed marriages would ensue. He stated further that PYLE quoted statistics showing the high percentage of Negro crimes and the high percentage of venereal disease within the Negro race. He stated that one man at the meeting who did not appear to be on the program, spoke to the group and stated that during his lifetime he had killed two Negroes and he was not hesitant to kill more, if necessary, as he would not tolerate any form of racial integration. He stated that two other people advocated violence to preserve segregation.

Memphis Confidential Informant T-2, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 6, 1955, that she attended a meeting of the Pro-Southerners on December 5, 1955, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Berclair, a suburb of Memphis. She stated that the meeting was supposed to be an organizational meeting for the Pro-Southerners in the Berclair area; that the meeting was orderly and that the purpose of the Pro-Southerners was explained by one of the speakers as being dedicated to opposing any type of racial integration in public schools and other public facilities. She stated that Pro-Southerners literature was distributed which showed photographs of Negro men and white women having social relations. She continued that one of the speakers announced that on Thursday, December 8, 1955, the Memphis Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to petition the Memphis Park Commission for integrated use of public parks and swimming facilities and that the Pro-Southerners wanted as many white people as possible to go to the Park Commission Office and protest this effort at integration.

On December 7, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, the National Organizer of the Pro-Southerners, was to hold an organizational meeting of the Pro-Southerners in Camden, Tennessee, on Saturday, December 17, 1955. Arrangements for this meeting were made by Mrs. IRA L. HATLEY, member of the Board of Directors of the Pro-Southerners in Memphis, and one of the Vice-Chairmen thereof. T-2 also noted that the meeting of the Pro-Southerners was scheduled at the Trainman's YMCA Building, on December 8, 1955, and on December 13, 1955, meetings would be held at the Lennox Civic Club and the Gaston Civic Club, Memphis.

#### F. MEMBERSHIP

On June 28, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE had recently stated that the organization had eighty-two members in Memphis.

ME # 105-98

On September 30, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that HARRY PYLE had a list which purported to be the members of the "A. B. HILL GROUP" of the Pro-Southerners. Informant explained that dues for the Pro-Southerners are set on the basis of either a single individual or a man and wife in the same family. In other words, where the man joins the organization, his wife is automatically a member. Informant noted regarding the above list that it included 10 individuals, four of whom were the wives of the members. On the same date, informant stated that PYLE had a list of the members of the Raleigh, Tennessee, Group, which consisted of 27 paid memberships, some of whom included husband and wife.

On the same date, T-2 stated that PYLE had a list of the Sharpe School Group, which consisted of 41 memberships, some consisting of man and wife; although several of these were not indicated on PYLE'S list as definitely being paid memberships.

On September 30, 1955, T-2 furnished a list of 9 known groups of the Pro-Southerners then existing in Memphis. Informant did not know the identity of all of the members thereof:

- Group # 1, 3601 South Lloyd Circle (PYLE'S home)
- Group # 2, Hickman Building
- Group # 3, Meadowlane
- Group # 4, Bullington Street
- Group # 5, Mary Road
- Group # 6, Gaston Avenue
- Group # 7, Scattered

(Informant stated that this apparently is a "catch-all" group made up of isolated members in various parts of town).

- Group # 8, Raleigh
- Group # 9, Frayser

G. FINANCES OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On June 28, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that PYLE had stated that the dues for the Pro-Southerners were \$2 per year, one-half of which went to the National Office. Informant, who is familiar with many of PYLE'S activities, states she has never known PYLE to actually send any money to the National Office.

In regard to PYLE'S failure to send dues payment to the National Office, T-2 advised on December 12, 1955, that PYLE claimed the previous day that he had authority to keep the National Office dues for his expense in connection with organizing

ME # 105-98

in Shelby County. In regard to the half of the dues which were supposed to remain in the local group, informant quoted PYLE as stating 25¢ remained in the individual group and 75¢ thereof went to the Shelby County group.

On December 27, 1955, T-2, supra, furnished a financial report of the local Pro-Southerners, which is as follows:

" Dec. 15th, 1955.

Financial Report of Local Pro-Southerners.

"Total membership dues collected -----\$1928.00  
"Total after National Dues are taken out----- \$ 964.00  
" Total membership paid 964. Total wives unknown  
" Total Local funds----- \$ 964.00  
" Total Donations----- \$ 28.00  
" Total Funds----- \$ 992.00

Expences.

"Paid for printing-----\$240.76  
"Paid for rent of halls, flags  
Ads, chair rent-----\$ 77.44

Leaflets made at cost of  
paper and ink by self-----\$117.00  
Total expences-----  
\$435.20

"Total in bank----- \$555.00

"Total cash and receipts ----- \$990.20-----\$990.20

Shortage----- \$ 1.80

\*\*\*\*\*

"There was spent out of National Dues for the help in Memphis the sum of \$327.29. This paid for direct mailings and for distributions of leaflets. Expence of boys to deliver leaflets and their costs.

None of this \$327.29 was used to pay long distance calls or for telegrams. Nor for Gas or other personal expences. The cost of membership cards and for stickers was paid out of this national Fund."

"I want to report this fact. As was brought out at our first meeting as a county unit, that I ballooned up the membership for the purpose of having a large looking organization so people would

ME # 105-98

"be willing to join. It had to be done for people would not come in to a small organization. It was costing us over three dollars per new member when we had few members, but when we ballooned the total membership, they began to join and the costs dropped.

"I gave to the press the larger figure and in doing so, done it under the impression that they would be faire, and I failed to balloon up our total bank account to make it good. But, had I done so, they still would have mislead the public, for they tried to total the whole dues and charge the expence to it, when they should have gave us a chance to point out that I hold in reserve money to carry on the work in organizing the western counties of the state. Had they been fair they would have published this fact.

"It is understood between Mr. Sherrill and I that I am to use all that come in here in Tennessee to promote our work here and not to spend it on doing work in other states.

"I have done all mimeographing at no cost to the local organization. I have taken no wage or salary out of the National Fund, but have had to take money from National Fund to buy gas and oil. I have carried this load on my own shoulders and put my own money in.

"Had I taken a salary out, the total taken in would hardly paid the salary, so the Commercial Appeal's yipping is rather weak, and if they had been honest, they would have stated that I had given 7 hard months to work at no cost to the members.

"I'd like to mention another fact. Had I had the memeographed leaflets made I would have had to pay out more than \$75.00 or more. So this idea that money was wasted is nothing more than a scheme to divide our people and let the niggers take over.

"We would like to call to your attention that there was a great waste of leaflets and application cards. More than should have been, yet so long as we were not getting publicity I felt that we must let all that would spread the leaflets.

"Before we had made a good start it was costing us more than Three dollars per member to get them, then as the leaflets began to get around the cost was reduced to about 75¢, and when the papers gave us a good break the membership began to build up and thus the cost will be reduced to about 25¢. which is a good showing.

"We now will have to draw on our bank account for hall rent, as we have rented LaBelle Civic Club house for a meeting, and I

ME # 105-98

have two leaflets on the press that will take up some \$67.00. As this will take care of our needs there should be a further building up of our local fund and the national Fund so I can have more to take on the work in West Tennessee.

Yours in the fight,  
/s/ Harry Wm. Pyle  
"Harry Wm. Pyle." *HP*

In regard to the above, T-2, supra, advised that PYLE'S explanation of the use of the Pro-Southerner funds was prepared as a result of an article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper, on December 15, 1955, headed: "EXPENSES TAKE BIG BITE OUT OF PRO-SOUTHERNERS". Informant noted that subsequent to the appearance of the above article and after PYLE explained his handling of funds to the Executive Board, the Board wrote a letter to the paper in which they completely exonerated PYLE of any improper handling of the funds.

On December 29, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-7, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [REDACTED]

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Confidential Informant T-7 also stated that [REDACTED]

All of the above information from T-7, is to be used



ME # 105-98

only on the issuance of a proper subpoena duces tecum.

#### H. SCOPE OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS

On July 11, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that PYLE had told him that the following organizations were part of the Pro-Southerners, but were known by the following names in their respective states:

Arkansas - White Americans *White American*  
Alabama - Alabama States-Righters *American States' Rights Assoc*  
North Carolina - Pro-Southerners  
Florida - Pro-Southerners Citizens Council  
Mississippi - Citizens Council *ACCM*  
Texas - Association for the Advancement of White People  
Georgia - Georgia Association for the Advancement of White  
People and States Righters  
Louisiana - Louisiana Gentlemen *Southern Gentlemen*

On various occasions, T-2 has advised that PYLE has stated that the Pro-Southerners, so far as he is concerned, will confine their organizing activities to the State of Tennessee. Informant stated that although PYLE may periodically make trips to adjoining states in connection with Pro-Southerner activities, he will be doing so only as a speaker for whichever group operates in that territory and will not try to form his own group where there is already an existing pro-segregation organization. In this connection, informant stated that PYLE has specifically mentioned that he will not organize any groups in Arkansas as "White America" is active in that State.

#### II. OFFICERS

##### A. NATIONAL OFFICERS

Memphis Confidential Informant T-8, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on June 21, 1954, that the letterhead of the Pro-Southerners listed the following officers of that organization:

##### ADVISORY BOARD

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Board Chairman  
M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary, Manager

ME # 105-98

HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, Tennessee  
~~ROBERT PATTERSON~~, Mississippi  
~~ALTON THATCHER~~, Missouri  
~~BOE CURRIE~~, Nevada  
~~J. H. BICKLEY~~, South Carolina  
~~CHARLES FITZGERALD~~, Texas  
~~F. C. SAMMONS~~, West Virginia  
~~Mrs. JESSIE JENKINS~~, Georgia  
~~Mrs. M. SONAN~~, Arizona  
~~JOHN H. MONK~~, Virginia  
~~E. G. SKAGGS~~, MD, Kentucky  
~~FLETCHER NELSON~~, Louisiana  
~~H. M. SHERRILL~~, Alabama  
~~L. F. HAVLIN~~, Oklahoma  
~~W. J. GRIFFIN~~, Florida  
~~HUBERT H. HEATH~~, New Mexico  
~~GEORGE C. BIEKLEY~~, Maryland  
~~R. E. GRIFFITH~~, Oklahoma  
~~P. C. WYATT~~, North Carolina  
~~L. W. LEWIS~~, Arkansas

ADVISORY BOARD  
PRO-SOUTHERNERS

T-2, supra, advised on June 28, 1955, that PYLE had a supply of membership cards of the Pro-Southerners, which states that the Pro-Southerners is the "white man's organization of the southland to preserve our southern segregated way of life".

The card contained the name of M. B. SHERRILL, Secretary-Manager, Post Office Box 1071, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

On December 27, 1955, T-2, supra, advised that in so far as the Memphis operations of the Pro-Southerners were concerned SHERRILL was obviously losing out. She stated that PYLE has frequent telephonic discussions with SHERRILL but apparently these calls are more on the basis of exchanging information as contrasted with PYLE having to report to SHERRILL on his activities. She also stated that even though the headquarters of the Pro-Southerners in Fort Pierce, Florida, are only nominal, PYLE is nevertheless talking about moving the National Headquarters to Memphis. She stated that as far as she can determine, SHERRILL gets no money out of the local groups. No reports or lists of members are submitted to him and PYLE is actually the complete leader of the Pro-Southerners, in so far as their Memphis operations are concerned.

Regarding the above individuals listed on the Pro-Southerners letterhead, the following information is set out:

ME # 105-98

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HUBERT HEATH

[redacted] Dona Ana County, New Mexico, [redacted]  
[redacted], advised SA [redacted] on May 19, 1955, that HEATH is the father of HUBERT F. HEATH, publisher of the Anthony Valley, New Mexico, News. [redacted] stated that HUBERT HEATH is an old man, probably in his 80's, and is considered harmless and irresponsible by those who know him.

F. C. SAMMONS

On June 23, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. [redacted]  
[redacted], Huntington, West Virginia, furnished SA [redacted] printed material issued by the West Virginia Anti-Soviet Educational League, Huntington, West Virginia, which indicated that SAMMONS was the Director of that organization. The literature was anti-semitic in nature. The literature alleges that the Jewish people control the Communist Party and the commerce and industry of all gentile nations.

Regarding SAMMONS, the November, 1954, issue of PYLE'S publication, the Political Reporter, indicates that SAMMONS died October 17, 1954, in an automobile accident.

JOHN H. MONK

JOHN HENRY MONK, aka JEAN VALJEAN, was investigated by the FBI in April of 1948 under the provisions of Executive Order # 9835. Investigation was based on the fact that MONK associated with a JOHN P. SPRUNK of St. Petersburg, Florida, who was described by the St. Petersburg Police Department as being a well-known Communist leader at St. Petersburg. Investigation conducted by the Norfolk Office in 1948 concerning MONK developed no subversive or disloyal information concerning him.

[redacted]  
Portsmouth, Virginia, advised SA W. MARVIN BAKER in 1954, that MONK was anti-semitic and had no good will toward Jews.

J. H. BICKLEY

Chief of Police LACY EDWARDS, Marion South Carolina Police Department, advised SA JACK M. BYRD that BICKLEY was rumored to have been a member of the Association of Carolina Klans in Marion, South Carolina during 1951. EDWARDS stated that BICKLEY has a reputation of being a "rabble rouser" and that with his reputation he was the type who had been a klansman or member of a similar group.

ME # 105-98

BOB CURRIE

On July 2, 1954 during the course of another investigation by the Salt Lake City Office of the FBI, inquiries were made at Carson City, Nevada, with reference to a BOB CURRIE or ROBERT CURRIE. Sheriff LESTER V. SMITH, Ormsby County, Nevada, advised that BOB CURRIE was a guard at the Nevada State Prison near Carson City, Nevada.

B. SHELBY COUNTY OFFICERS

On June 28, 1955, T-2, supra, advised at that time that the leadership in the Pro-Southerners in Memphis consisted in so far as he could determine of the following:

*Lead*  
MRS. MOODY, who resides on Myers Street  
JOEL WILKERSON  
FRANK WHISMAN  
DR. T. R. MONTGOMERY, Hickman Building, Memphis  
WILLIAM STONES, possibly a student at Memphis State College  
Mrs. SHIPP, an elderly lady

The Memphis Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper, in the September 30, 1955, issue, quoted PYLE as stating that he was the National Chairman of the Pro-Southerners and that M. V. SHERRILL of Fort Pierce, Florida, was the Secretary-Treasurer. PYLE was also quoted as stating that JOEL WILKERSON, an insurance man, was the County Chairman; Dr. T. R. MONTGOMERY, County Vice-Chairman; and Mrs. RUTH MOODY, Secretary.

On November 22, 1955, T-5, supra, advised that the Pro-Southerners drafted a resolution directed to the City of Memphis in regard to the maintenance of segregated recreational facilities and that the following names were affixed to this resolution as officers:

Joel Wilkerson, Chairman  
Dr. T. R. Montgomery, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Ruth Moody, Secretary

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
Lonnie F. Tant, Group #1  
Frieda R. Pyle, Group #3  
L. L. Willner, Group #5

Charles W. Bell, Chairman Group # 9  
James Clemens, Asst. Chairman (county) Group # 7  
M. B. McCoy, Chairman Group # 16  
Jimmie L. Skelton, Chairman Group # 15  
I. J. Hatley, Chairman Group # 11  
T. V. Rainey, Chairman Group # 5  
Brooks Varner, Organizing Chairman Groups #5 and 10  
Harry William Pyle, National Chairman (Approved)  
G. W. Gregory, Chairman Group # 12

*Lead*

ME # 105-98

C. FACTIONALISM

On December 12, 1955, as well as on various other occasions, T-2, supra, has advised that the exact relationship between PYLE and M. V. SHERRILL is very vague. Informant pointed out that on December 12, 1955, PYLE had been highly critical of SHERRILL as he claimed that SHERRILL had given some erroneous information regarding the Pro-Southerners to newspaper reporters on membership figures. Informant also stated that PYLE wanted to go to Fort Pierce to get this straightened out with SHERRILL. Informant has subsequently advised that PYLE has talked about moving the national office of the Pro-Southerners to Memphis and to a great extent breaking of ties with SHERRILL except those which he would maintain with any other pro-segregation group.

On November 22, 1955, T-5, supra, who has attended some meetings of the Pro-Southerners, described PYLE as being "a loud-mouthed individual," perhaps well meaning but very indiscreet. He also described PYLE as being a professional organizer and a "phony" who is not capable of running the Pro-Southerners.

On November 28, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-9, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that numerous individuals in Memphis who are in favor of complete segregation of the races and who were originally sympathetic to the Pro-Southerners, have decided to organize another group which will be known as the Association of Tennessee Citizens Councils. This informant stated that part of the dissatisfaction of PYLE'S leadership in the Pro-Southerners is due to the fact that PYLE has no visible means of support and is apparently depending upon the membership dues for his livelihood.

Informant also stated that PYLE is extremely jealous of any other anti-integration group, which attempts to operate in Memphis and is also jealous of anyone in the Pro-Southerners who appears to develop sufficient leadership to where he becomes a threat to PYLE'S position.

III. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

As previously noted, the membership card of the Pro-Southerners states that it is "The white man's organization of the southland to preserve our southern segregated way of life." The previously mentioned article in the September 30, 1955, issue of the Memphis Commercial Appeal states that the Pro-Southerners are dedicated to "staying the hand that would mongrelize the white race". This article also quotes the Pro-Southerners as circulating mimeographed circulars which warned that the NAACP

ME # 105-98

is "organizing to whip the white race into subjection and racial mixing."

The article also quotes PYLE as stating "We are absolutely opposed to any violence and we think by organizing we can avoid any violence".

IV. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROGRAM.

On November 22, 1955, T-5, supra, made available a copy of the resolution of the Pro-Southerners to the Memphis City Government in opposition to integrated recreational facilities. A copy of this resolution was also furnished by T-2, supra, on December 6, 1955. The resolution is as follows:

"RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has again handed down a decision that strikes at our liberty, our laws and our customs; and,

"WHEREAS, this decision forcing our public officials to open up to race mixing our public supported recreational facilities; and,

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other negro groups may make demands upon our public officials to open up all public supported recreational facilities that are now used by the White citizens, citing the Supreme Court's decision for their right to be admitted.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Pro-Southerners of Memphis, Tennessee go on record as demanding that the Mayor and our City Commissioners close all public supported Recreational facilities should the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or any other negro group, or any individual negro makes a demand to admit negroes to white recreational facilities; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or other negro groups or any individual negro go into court to enforce the Supreme Court's decision, that our Mayor and City Commissioners dispose of all public supported recreational facilities or dismantle them, so as to make them unfitted for use; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, Walter Chandler, and copies given to our daily press

ME # 105-98

"and twenty thousand copies made up to distribute among the White citizens of Memphis.

"Done this 16th day of November 1955.

"Joel Wilkerson, Chairman  
Dr. T. R. Montgomery, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Ruth Moody, Secretary

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
Lonnie F. Tant, Group # 1  
Frieda R. Pyle, Group # 3  
L. L. Willner, Group # 5

"Charles W. Bell, Chairman Group # 9  
James Clem Piersol, Asst. Chairman (county), Group # 7  
M. B. McCoy, Chairman Group # 16  
Jimmie L. Skelton, Chairman Group # 15  
I. J. Hatley, Chairman Group # 11  
T. V. Rainey Chairman Group # 5  
Brooks Varner Organizing Chairman Groups # 5 and 10  
Harry William Pyle, National Chairman (Approved)  
G. W. Gregory Chairman Group # 12  
Copy of the original on file with the County Secretary

"Why did the press ignore this front page news?"

On December 1, 1955, Confidential Informant T-10, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the Pro-Southerners were extremely active in the plant of the International Harvester Company, Memphis, Tennessee. Informant stated that numerous Pro-Southerner handbills had been found on the plant property and the activities of the Pro-Southerners had resulted in creating strained relations between the Negro and white employees of the company. Informant stated that it was significant to him judging by the complaints the management received from the foreman in the plant, the white employees could do no wrong and the Negro employees could do nothing right. Informant noted that this was quite different from the previous experience of the management at the plant, where normally complaints from the foremen would be more or less equally divided between the Negro and white employees. At the time of this interview, however, the foremen were seemingly finding fault only with the Negro employees.

On December 30, 1955, Memphis Confidential Informant T-11, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the Pro-Southerners were extremely active in the Kimberly-Clark Company plant in Memphis. Informant noted that even though the union in the plant professed to believe nationally in integration, that this was not having any effect on the local members and many of them were joining Pro-

ME # 105-98

Southerners and in fact, Pro- Southerner meetings at one time were being held in the union hall located at Chelsea and Thomas Streets in Memphis.

Informant also pointed out that either the Pro-Southerners or some of their sympathizers had distributed leaflets which claim that the National Urban League was Communist infiltrated and that this league was being helped by the Memphis Community Fund. According to the informant, this leaflet caused many of the employees of the plant to cancel their pledges in the Community Fund drive during late 1955.

*Lead*  
The Memphis Press Scimitar, a daily newspaper in Memphis, in the December 9, 1955 issue, reports the appearance of approximately 400 people at the Memphis Park Commission Building to protest a request from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the admission of Negroes to previously segregated recreational facilities. The newspaper identified HARRY PYLE as the national chairman of the Pro-Southerners and the principal speaker for that organization. The paper also stated that JIMMIE ARIERSOL, a plastering contractor, was the county chairman for the Pro-Southerners. The newspaper reported that the Memphis Park Commission took no action on the request of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to end segregation.

T-2, supra, advised on January 17, 1956, that a Memphis attorney, WAYNE T. DeWEES, had arranged on behalf of the Pro-Southerners for a conference with Governor FRANK CLEMENT at the State Capitol in Nashville, on January 23, 1956. Informant noted that the Pro-Southerners in a written resolution prepared by DeWEES were demanding that CLEMENT accept one of the three alternatives. These are as follows:

1. Appoint a committee consisting of one representative from the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of the State to study segregation in their particular areas and to recommend suitable amendments to the Constitution and the laws of the State.
2. Call a special session of the Legislature to enact suitable laws to safeguard segregation, both in the schools and in the various media of transportation.
3. That the Governor will completely uphold States Rights in segregation.

Informant stated that if Governor CLEMENT accepted the third alternative, that there would be no need for the first two, although



ME # 105-98

Pro-Southerners had little hope that he would do so.

Informant stated that as far as she knew, the conference with the Governor was arranged solely on behalf of the Pro-Southerners, although they have since made arrangements to be joined by groups from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and possibly other parts of the State. Informant pointed out, however, that there was no connection so far as she could determine between the Chattanooga group of the Memphis Pro-Southerners, except their common interest in segregation.

Confidential Informant T-2, supra, also stated that it is the intention of the Pro-Southerners to arrange conferences with the Mayor of Memphis, the Memphis Chief of Police, the Shelby County Sheriff, and the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department to discuss various phases of segregation and to determine the policy of these officials to be followed when the question of segregation is raised.

V. CONNECTION OF THE PRO-SOUTHERNERS  
WITH OTHER GROUPS

As previously pointed out, T-2 has stated that HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, the National Chairman of the Pro-Southerners, has indicated that he will not organize in any place outside of Tennessee or even in Tennessee where there is an existing pro-segregation group. He has also indicated, according to T-2, as previously set out, that various organizations in other southern states are part of the Pro-Southerners but are known by various names in their respective states. According to T-2, PYLE has never indicated that there is any definite organizational connection between these various groups and that they are bound together only by their common interest in the maintenance of segregation.

On September 23, 1955, Sergeant [redacted], ASPOL, Jonesboro, Arkansas, advised SA ESTES G. COLEMAN that he had attended a rally at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on September 17, 1955, which was sponsored by the Citizens Committee of Hoxie, Arkansas. Sergeant [redacted] advised that HARRY PYLE made a short talk at the rally and stated that he was connected with the Pro-Southerners in Memphis. Sergeant [redacted] also stated that PYLE assured the Citizens Committee in Hoxie that the organization in Memphis would help in any way possible but did not want any violence. b6 b7C

T-2, supra, has advised that PYLE occasionally refers to an organization known as the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Inform-

ME # 105-98

Informant stated that she has never heard of the Ku Kloss Klan having either regular dues or regular meetings and believes from PYLE'S comments that it is nothing more than the inner circle of the Pro-Southerners. Informant states that PYLE has also mentioned that if the Pro-Southerners should fall apart, he has another organization on which he can fall back and informant believes that this is the Ku Kloss Klan.

Confidential Informant T-9, supra, has advised on November 28, 1955, that he has never been a member of the Ku Kloss Klan and knows of no members thereof, although he has heard PYLE mention it and claimed that he, PYLE, was a high official thereof.

During the summer and fall of 1955, mimeographed letters were circulated, postmarked Memphis, Tennessee, bearing the typed signature of "The Pioneers of Tennessee". T-2 advised that he did not know who originated these letters, although HARRY PYLE has at times had some of them in his possession.

T-2 advised that PYLE has claimed to have gotten the letters from FRANK WHISMAN and that PYLE intended to pass them out to his friends in the Pro-Southerners. The letters were completely opposed to any integration of the races and at least one of them attempted to inject the racial issue into the municipal election held in Memphis in November, 1955. The letters were also anti-semitic in nature.

T-9, supra, who is well acquainted with the activities of the above mentioned FRANK WHISMAN, advised that he has discussed "The Pioneers of Tennessee" letters with WHISMAN and WHISMAN allegedly knows nothing about the origin of them.

T-5, supra, advised on November 22, 1955, that PYLE claims that the Pro-Southerners are affiliated with the Federation for Constitutional Government, a pro-segregation group which, according to informant, is designed to coordinate the work of the various pro-segregation groups in the south.

T-12, an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 27, 1956, that he was connected with the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government and was present at a meeting of the Federation for Constitutional Government, which was held in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee in early January, 1956. Informant stated that he personally knows that the Pro-Southerners are not in any way connected with either the Federation for Constitutional Government or the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government. Informant pointed out that since the inception of the Pro-Southerners in Memphis during

ME # 105-98

the summer of 1955, that at least two other groups have been formed in the City to support segregation. Informant stated that they are The Association of Tennessee Citizens Councils and the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government. Informant noted that had the Pro-Southerners been able to command the respect of the mass of people in Memphis who are opposed to integration, there would be no need for forming these two groups. Actually, however, the informant stated that the Pro-Southerners have the seeds of their own destruction in their organization due to the poor leadership which they are receiving from HARRY PYLE.

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ME # 105-98

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
T-1 [redacted]	Origin and Objectives	5/7/54	MELVIN Mc-RAE JETT	[redacted] ME file 105-98-9
T-2 [redacted]	Incorporation National Constitution and By-Laws Shelby County By-Laws 12/11/55 Camden, Tenn. Membership " " Funds Letter re Funds Financial Report Membership Card Sherrill Pyle wants to go to Fort Pierce	1/17/56 1/24/56 1/27/55 12/12/55 12/7/55 9/30/55 6/28/56 12/11/55 12/27/55 12/27/55 6/28/55 12/27/55 12/12/55	J.H. KEARNEY " " W.H. LAWRENCE " " J.H. KEARNEY W.H. LAWRENCE J.H. KEARNEY " " W.H. LAWRENCE	100-3214-134 100-3214-1A-47 105-98-1A-15 100-3214-131 100-3214-123 100-3214-100 [redacted] 100-3214-128 105-123-1A13 105-123-1A14 100-3214-84 105-98-94 100-3214-128
T-3 [redacted] Panel Source	Letter from PYLE 7/6/55	7/25/55	J.H. KEARNEY and W.H. LAWRENCE	100-3214-84
T-4 [redacted] [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	8/6/55	8/4/55	J.H. KEARNEY	100-3214-84
T-5 [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	11/21/55	11/22/55	J.A. CANALE & W.H. LAWRENCE	100-3214-127
T-6 [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	12/5/55	12/6/55	W.H. LAWRENCE	105-98-102

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ME # 105-98

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number where Located
T-7 [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	Bank Account " "	12/29/55 1/19/56	J. H. KEARNEY "	105-98-94 Originally reported herein
T-8 [redacted]	PYLE on Board	6/21/54	SA MELVIN Mc-RAE JETT	[redacted] Me file 105-98-9
T-9 [redacted] Panel Source ME	Factionalism Pioneers of Tenn.	11/28/55 "	J. H. KEARNEY & W. H. LAWRENCE J. H. KEARNEY & W. H. LAWRENCE	100-3214-125 "
T-10 [redacted] International Harvester Co. Memphis, Tenn.	Activity at IH Plant	12/1/55	J. H. KEARNEY	105-98-87
T-11 [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	Activity at Kimberly-Clark Plant	12/30/55	"	105-98-93
T-12 [redacted] Memphis, Tenn.	Federation for Constitutional Government	1/27/56	"	Herein

Due care and consideration has been given to the use of informant symbols, and they have only been used where the concealing of identity is essential.

L E A D S

Copies of this report are being furnished the indicated officers for information in view of the unsupported assertion by HARRY WILLIAM PYLE, that the Pro-Southerners operated under various names in other Southern States.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ME # 105-98

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will continue to follow and report the activities of  
the Pro-Southerners.

REFERENCE: Report of SA JOSEPH H. KEARNEY, Memphis,  
Tennessee, dated 2/25/55

Bureau letter dated 12/20/55 to Miami

Report of SA DOUGLAS E. WENDEL dated 1/18/56 at  
Miami.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE